



Murdered paperboy's pal plans 40th anniversary tribute

I COULD HAVE DIED LIKE CARL

Report by Marion Brennan

A FRIEND of murdered paperboy Carl Bridgewater has revealed how he came close to being the target of the teenager's brutal killers instead of his schoolfriend.

Adrian Goodaker was speaking as the 40th anniversary approaches of the murder at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, where 13-year-old Carl was shot dead at point blank range whilst delivering the evening paper after apparently interrupting a burglary.

The buildings maintenance contractor, now 54, told how he was offered the round just weeks before Carl, but turned it down to earn more money on a busier route.

He even rode the route with his best friend John Hanson, who was giving up the round, and remembered calling at Yew Tree Farm.

Delivered

"When I see photographs of that entrance in newspapers and books and think 'I delivered a paper through that very door', I realise how lucky I was.

"I went out with John to see how I would like it. It was a beautiful area, all million-pound homes, very exclusive but only about 20 houses on the route, so consequently less pocket money. My twin brother Ian had a round twice that size and earned twice the money so I thought about it overnight and told John the next day I'd let it go.

"Carl took on the round and sadly it wasn't long, just a few weeks, before he was shot."

Police went on to charge suspects, who became known as the Bridgewater Four, after they were arrested in connection with an armed robbery in Halesowen. Patrick Molloy, James Robinson, cousins Michael and Vincent Hickey had their convictions overturned after 18 years in 1997, amid concerns about the evidence.

On anniversaries of the killing on September 19, 1978, Mr Goodaker, who lived three doors from Carl in Wordsley, has considered marking the passing of his 'dear friend' in some lasting way.

Now he has set up a crowdfunding page aim-



Carl Bridgewater – the murder of the 13-year-old paperboy shocked the nation and remains unsolved today

ing to raise £1,000 over the next month to create and install a bench at one of the teenager's favourite places, Himley Hall, overlooking the lake where he used to sail.

He describes his pal on the website as 'a wonderful young man who would have grown into a beautiful loving soul'. Over coffee at his terraced Dudley home, he recalls the carefree fun they had as boys in the Black Country.

"I could take you to the tree where we would throw up sticks to get the best conkers. I remember one day we decided to gather up all the empty milk bottles on people's doorsteps

and put them outside this one house and then knocking on their door and running. There must have been 300 bottles. Or we'd go to the park and challenge each other to run across the bowling green before the park keeper saw us.

Energy

"Carl's nickname was Atom because he had so much energy, I was Spud, my brother was Mouse, we all had nicknames.

"I was a few months older than Carl but in the streets where we lived, we were a commu-



Adrian Goodaker has spoken about his memories of Carl as the 40th anniversary of the Wordsley boy's murder approaches

nity, we were all very close. So when this happened, it shocked us to the core."

If the appeal exceeds the target, Adrian will speak to Carl's parents about how they would like to see the money spent.

The father-of-two said he has had knockbacks in his life, including the breakdown of his marriage and the failure of his business, but can never get downhearted.

"I'm still alive, and I'm thankful for that," he says.

To make a donation, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/adrian-goodaker>

INJUNCTION

Travellers return to camp on park

TRAVELLERS have returned to a Black Country park, after leaving less than a week ago.

Dudley Council had worked to secure an injunction from the courts after around 30 caravans had moved on to Woodside Park, in Dudley, on August 10.

Now ward councillors say the travellers are 'making a mockery' of the local authority and have called for more effective action to be taken.

Qadar Zada, ward councillor for Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's, said: "I have written to the council to say the current strategy is ineffective."

EXHIBITIONS

Art goes on show at Himley Hall

TWO exhibitions featuring work by Black Country artists are on display at Himley Hall.

Work by the Brierley Hill District Society of Artists and the Dudley Society of Artists is currently adorning the walls at the historic stately home.

The Brierley Hill District Society of Artists' exhibition runs until September 16, while the Dudley Society of Artists showcase finishes on September 22.

ESCAPE

Wandering wallaby was hit by vehicle

A THREE-YEAR-OLD wallaby that escaped from a zoo near Stourbridge has been recovered, after being hit by a vehicle.

The wallaby, Holly, evaded capture for a fortnight after escaping from Wild Zoological Park in Bobbington on August 14. She was hit by a vehicle yesterday (Wednesday) and taken by the motorist to a vet and is expected to make a full recovery.

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STUDENTS MAKE THE GRADE



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
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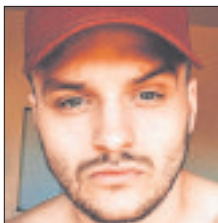
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From shop worker to internet sensation



Jay Swingler – prankster

IT was hailed as the internet's biggest event, taking place in front of 20,000 fans and beamed live to many thousands more, pulling in millions of pounds – and one of the stars was a Black Country lad you've probably never heard of.

Former Diffusion shop assistant Jay Swingler, an online prankster, fought on the undercard for KSI Vs Logan Paul, a white collar boxing event that pulled in millions of viewers worldwide. The bash was broadcast on YouTube with subscribers paying £7.50 a time

to watch the entire show. It has been hailed as a game-changing success, raking in more than many professional boxing pay-per-view events. A total of 784,000 people signed up, bringing in £5.5 million.

As one half of the YouTube channel 'TGFbro', Jay was third on the bill for the main event that saw the UK's biggest YouTuber KSI take on America's Logan Paul. Jay, 23, a former Kidderminster Harriers youth player and Halesowen College student, fought fellow YouTuber AnEson (Ali) Gib in four

rounds of 'boxing' that saw the local lad, originally from Wolverhampton and now living in Dudley, lose on points.

The bash, dubbed the 'biggest event in internet history' on Saturday, was watched by 20,000 people at Manchester Arena and by a global audience via YouTube. The TGFbro YouTube channel, which has more than four million subscribers, is run by Jay and co-star Romell Henry. Their most infamous stunt came when Jay cemented his head inside a microwave and needed the emergency services' help to remove it.

Father denies role in acid attack on child

THE father of a three-year-old boy injured in a suspected acid attack has denied conspiring with six other people to carry out the assault.

The youngster suffered serious burns to his face and arm at the Home Bargains store in Worcester on July 21.

His 39-year-old father is charged with conspiring to commit grievous bodily harm in connection with the incident, in the Tallow Hill area of the city.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded not guilty to the offence when he appeared at Worcester Crown Court on Tuesday.

Five other men and a woman – all of whom are facing the same allegation – also denied the charge during the hearing.

Also accused are Adam Cech, 27, and Jan Dudi, 25, both from Birmingham, Norbert Pulko, 22, and Saied Hussini, 41, both from London, and Jabar Paktia, 41, from Wolverhampton.

Martina Badiova, 22, of Newcombe Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, appeared in the court dock alongside the men.

Languages

She was the seventh person arrested in connection with the investigation and was charged on Friday.

The defendants spoke with the assistance of four different interpreters, using the Dari, Pashto, Czech and Slovak languages, and were flanked by seven dock officers. About 30 family and friends of the defendants were in the public gallery.

Adjourning the case for a preliminary hearing on September 21, Judge Jim Tindal told those in the dock: "By that stage, what I hope to have happened is we'll have identified a potential trial date and a potential trial judge, if not his honour Judge (Robert) Jukes."

All the defendants were remanded into custody to appear back at the same court next month.

Crooks pay for new police drone



Not a scene from The Terminator, it's the police's DJI Matrice 210 taking off to watch the streets

IT looks like something from a science fiction movie but in reality it's West Midlands Police's latest weapon against crime.

The force's newest drone, the DJI Matrice 210, can zoom in on vehicles and record their registration numbers from high in the sky.

The black quadcopter, paid for by money seized from criminals, is capable of flying in all weather conditions and has 'super zoom' on all of its cameras.

The force's drone unit tweeted: "Watch out cruisers, @drone-sWMP are watching you."

The gadget can fly at speeds of 51.4mph.

The force said the new technology would assist them in capturing burglars and thieves, and would also be used to deter anti-social behaviour.

They added: "The drones/UAVs operated by WMP have all been obtained via the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Asset Recovery Fund-

ing. No money has been taken from the public purse for these aircraft, equipment or training."

A total of £28,000 was taken out of the POCA fund to pay for three drones and training for seven remote control pilots earlier this year.

The money is raised from assets seized from convicted criminal.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson welcomed the drones, saying: "They can go where officers can't."

Group face wrangle on mosque plan parking issue

A GROUP has become embroiled in a planning row for the second time in two years over a proposed mosque.

The scheme, planned for Smethwick, has led to hundreds of comments on a community Facebook page saying it will cause serious traffic problems.

But the Gambian Islamic Centre has said fears its proposed community centre and mosque on Bearwood Road would lead to parking chaos are unfounded.

The application wants to convert a former solicitor's office into a place of worship, which could accommodate 250 people.

More than 400 comments have appeared on the Bearwood page against the plans. Other posts pointed out that in 2016, the Gambian Islamic Centre was ordered to close its former mosque on Windmill Lane, Cape Hill, because of parking problems.

The application is expected to be heard by Sandwell Council's planning committee in October.

Lamin Yaffa, centre chairman, said: "Smethwick is our home and our followers live in and around this area, so many of them will walk to or use public transport to come to pray."

The planning application states there would be parking on site for six cars with plans to increase that to 15.

Inmate too high to appear in court

AN alleged burglar being held at HMP Oakwood could not face court because he was 'under the influence' in prison.

The inmate was first due to appear before Gloucester Crown Court via video link more than a week ago to enter a plea to a charge of burglary at a home in Cheltenham.

But he was said by a prison officer to be too high on drugs or booze to be brought to the video link room at HMP Oakwood, a privately run prison, near Wolverhampton. The female warden told the court that the man was 'under the influence.' Judge Michael Harington sighed "Yes, a sign of the times."

The prisoner has since appeared back before Gloucester Crown Court where he denied an allegation of burglary and will now face trial.

Radio show will be busking for charity

BANDS will 'busk' at a charity event in Dudley. Black Country broadcaster and performer Billy Spakemon's hosts the free night of live music on September 8. The Black Country Radio's Omma N Chain Buskin' for Parkinsons UK event is at the Station Hotel at 7.30pm.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fewer car parking spaces at park

MARY Stevens Park in Stourbridge will see a temporary cut to its parking spaces.

Essential maintenance work to the offices within the park will see approximately 10 car parking spaces, including two disabled bays, taken out of action for around four weeks.

Council bosses have earmarked September 3 for the project's start to avoid the busy school holiday period.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council, said: "We believe the reduced capacity will still be sufficient to cope with the demand at that time of the year, although of course we apologise for any inconvenience."

Double amputee mountaineer talk

A DOUBLE amputee who has conquered some of the world's most famous mountains with prosthetic legs will be giving an inspirational talk to raise funds for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Dr Norman Croucher OBE, who in 1995 climbed the world's sixth highest mountain, Cho Oyu in Tibet, will be the special guest at a dinner at the Granary Hotel at Shenstone, near Kidderminster, in aid of the Stourbridge hospice on October 11.

Tickets cost £30 including a three-course meal, and can be purchased by calling 01562 883834.

Law firm poses charity questions

BRIERLEY Hill law firm Higgs & Sons holds its annual charity quiz at the Black Country Living Museum's Workers' Institute on October 10.

There will be 35 teams of four and teams need to book in advance. The £90 per team entrance fee includes food at the interval.

Proceeds from the evening will go to Dudley Mind. Completed entry forms should be returned to Higgs & Sons by September 28.

For sponsorship opportunities or to donate a raffle prize, call events manager David O'Mara on 01384 327387.

Churches in spotlight at talk by historian

A BLACK Country historian and author is giving a talk on the churches and chapels of Gornal.

Ned Williams will be giving the talk at Gornal Library in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal, on September 5 from 7pm to 9pm for the Friends of Gornal Library event.

It's free but places need to be reserved with library staff. Mr Williams has written more than 40 local history books.

Thug who broke jaw of stranger is sent to jail

A THUG who broke the jaw of a complete stranger with a single punch has been jailed for 21 months.

Jordan Bullock wrongly thought that Brad Gutteridge had spat at him outside the Meadow Lark pub in Dibble Road, Dudley.

The 24-year-old, who had been drinking, hit Mr Gutteridge in the face, breaking his jaw so badly that three metal plates had to be inserted into his face during surgery.

The victim of the attack in May 2016 revealed in a statement to the court that he lost one and a half stone in weight, could not work for two months and had only just started to regain his confidence more than two years after the incident.

Bricklayer

Trainee bricklayer Bullock was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm after a trial and had been remanded on bail for pre-sentence reports.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said the defendant had not committed any offence since the incident, which had been 'over in seconds.'

However, Bullock, of Kingfare Rise, Dudley, was on a suspended sentence, imposed after a violent incident, when he delivered the punch.

He was sent to prison for 21 months by Judge Peter Barrie, who told him: "This was an act of completely uncalculated for violence."

Thorne on cue to boost charity fund

A BLACK-TIE evening hosted by snooker star Willie Thorne will raise money for Midlands Air Ambulance.

The Barmy Ball, organised by a group of cyclists, will include a live band, DJ, auction and raffle at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, on November 24.

Following the success of its first ball last year, where more than £14,000 was raised for the charity, the Barmy Team has organised the event with the aim of beating last year's total.

Mr Thorne said: "I'm so pleased to be hosting the Barmy Ball this year, it's going to be so much fun for a very worthwhile cause. I've been a long-time supporter of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity." For tickets, call 07837 755686.

Scoot along to gig

THE Lower Gornal-based Mohicans Scooter Club has booked a band, The Riff, to play Lower Gornal Royal British Legion Club, Ruiton Street, on September 15 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7, 07881 525704 or 07711 622152.

Victim had called police before attack



Suspect Janbaz Tarin

A MOTHER and daughter who were victims in a suspected double murder at their home were on the phone to police as the fatal attack unfolded, say detectives.

Raneem Oudeh, 22, and Khaola Saleem, 49, were assaulted in the early hours of Bank Holiday Monday, at Ms Saleem's house in Solihull.

Afghan national Janbaz Tarin, Miss Oudeh's ex-lover, is being sought in connection with the incident but has so far not been traced despite a major manhunt.

West Midlands Police said there had been "a number of calls" from Miss Oudeh to the force on Sunday night.

Detective Inspector Caroline Corfield, leading the investigation, said: "This is a shocking, tragic case. We have a team of detectives working around the clock. The response from the public to our appeal has been positive but we need anyone with information on Tarin's whereabouts to get in touch."

Police confirmed they had searched three addresses, including a property in Sparkhill.

In a statement, the force said: "Following speculation over police contact with the victim on the evening, we are clarifying the following points. There were

a number of calls from Miss Oudeh to police on Sunday evening and we tried to physically locate her but were unsuccessful.

"Contact was being made to arrange to see Miss Oudeh and it was during this conversation that the situation quickly escalated and the call handler immediately dispatched officers to the location in Northdown Road where they arrived within minutes."

Ms Oudeh had a two-year-old son, though Tarin is not the father, and had moved to England from Syria with her mother, who herself had six children.

Residents want action over speeding on road

A CAMPAIGN group has called upon Dudley Council to slow traffic on their road, after speeds of up to 85mph were recorded.

Members from Friends of Howley Grange have been working with Woodgate Valley Fire Station to reduce the number of incidents and near misses on Howley Grange Road in Halesowen.

Now the council will consider an 'advisory' 20mph limit during school hours.

Jennifer Clulow, who has lived in the road for 24 years, said: "It's horrendous. We're calling on the council to put traffic calming measures."

"We don't want speed bumps. The road is very long and if they put chevrons down and a sign it slows the traffic down."

Watch Commander Paul Stephens, from Woodgate Valley Fire Station, placed a Speed Indicator Device on the road to monitor speeds.

Proof

He said: "I became aware of the community group that had been set up by concerned residents. They've been witnessing some high speed driving and I thought I could add some value to their beliefs. Now they've got proof."

"We set it up for two weeks attached to a lamppost. We let it run and then I was able to download the data."

Mr Stephens said the group was shocked by the results.

He added: "It's a 30mph road and the results were really surprising. There was speeding drivers reaching speeds of 60, 65, 70 on a number of occasions."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services at Dudley Council, said: "We have not received any reports in relation to road accidents on Howley Grange Road."

"However, as part of a future safer schools programme, we will be looking to introduce an advisory 20mph zone along the road during school opening and closing times to encourage more considerate driving."



A man was arrested in Brierley Hill last week after he was found in possession of these terrifying machete-style knives

Terrifying machetes are seized by police

TWO potentially deadly machetes were seized by police during a stop and search in Brierley Hill.

The weapons were taken from a man last Thursday.

West Midlands Police were praised for their actions in getting the terrifying blades off the streets.

Police confirmed a man had been arrested after he was found in possession of the machetes on Thursday night.

Brierley Hill Police said on Twitter: "Seized tonight by Pcs Griffin Fox and Crane following a stop and search. Two more knives off the street." Sally Bournier, Dudley Police Commander, was among those to commend the work of the officers. She tweeted: "Great work! Thank you and our streets safer as a result."

The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star, is campaigning to ban the sale of knives and machetes.

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Care home boss gambled with money stolen from resident

A CARE home manager from Birmingham stole nearly £100,000 from a resident and spent large sums of the money playing bingo, a tribunal has heard.

Carleen Wilkins, aged 41, withdrew the maximum amount of cash from her 97-year-old victim's account almost every day between 2012 and 2016. On one occasion she took the pensioner to a bank to withdraw £4,000 in cash.

Phoenix staff to support cancer charity

WORKERS at Phoenix Materials Testing have pledged their support to White House Cancer Support.

The Brierley Hill-based firm will be holding regular fundraising events to help families affected by cancer within the Dudley borough.

To celebrate the start of the partnership, Phoenix staff will visit the White House in Ednam Road, Dudley, on September 5 for a tour of the premises and to find out how their fundraising activities will support the charity's work.

Sam Shevyn, operations manager at Phoenix on The Wallows Industrial Estate, Fens Pool Drive, said: "The wonderful work of White House Cancer Support touched a chord with many of our own team and we are delighted to be able to work in partnership with them."

Wilkins, of Quinton, used the cash to pay off her debts and payday loans – and even gambled money away at various casinos.

She was arrested in February 2016 after she escorted the victim to the bank.

Suspicious

Staff at the branch became suspicious and conducted checks which found daily ATM withdrawals over a 12-month period – adding up to well over £90,000.

Wilkins admitted withdrawing the cash but denied any wrongdoing – and even claimed the victim spent the vast amount on bottles of sherry.

Wilkins eventually pleaded guilty to theft at Birmingham Crown Court.

Wilkins was banned from the nursing profession for life after serving a 31-month jail sentence.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council, sitting in London, was told the victim had a distrust of banks and handed control of her finances to Wilkins, who stole £98,730 over a 40-month period.

Panel chairman Paul Powicki said: "The conviction in this case is serious, involving dishonesty against a vulnerable patient when in a position of trust. Wilkins' conduct and behaviour clearly fell far below the standards to be expected of a registered nurse."

Saddling up for cycling challenge



Connie Hudson, with Hugh Porter (right), Henry Carver (centre) and Tom Shotton from Cousins who are sponsoring the event

A YOUNG athlete, training to represent her country, is saddling up to take part in a top cycling event.

Connie Hudson, aged 19, from Gornal Wood, is riding in the Cousins 20km – part of the Carver Wolverhampton Half Marathon in West Park on Sunday. Cycling legend Hugh Porter and businessman Henry Carver

have supported Ms Hudson. She said: "It's a very big sportive for me because it's by one of my sponsors and something I would like to help with, especially with how much Henry has helped me out with everything."

Hugh said: "She's been living in Spain and racing in Europe to improve her ability and get international experience. I've put her in contact with a few bike riders in the women's game that she could contact to give her some leads. She's now going to take part in the ride, which is to raise money for worthwhile causes. There's still time to enter. We've got over 250 riders."

Enter via www.wolverhamptonmarathon.co.uk website.

Bucket event coming to the Cornbow

A HOSPICE is taking over the Second City this September with its annual Big Brum Bucket campaign and is asking volunteers to get on board.

Birmingham St Mary's Hospice is asking for helpers for the bucket collection to raise vital funds for people living with life-limiting illness. Taking place on September 28 and 29, the initiative is in aid of the Selly Park-based charity.

Collections will be happening at supermarkets, shopping centres and high streets across the city, including the Cornbow Shopping Centre in Halesowen, as well as Harborne and New Street Station.

Alison Deere took part in the hospice's Big Brum Bucket collection in 2017 and has already signed up to become a 'bucketeer' this year. She said: "I absolutely loved being part of Big Brum Bucket last year – people were so friendly. It's such a simple but effective way to show your support."

Lucy Watkins, hospice head of fundraising, said: "You get to choose where you collect, when and for how long – making it a flexible volunteering role."

"Last year, we raised an impressive £11,000 and every penny collected really did make a difference."

To sign up go to birminghamhospice.org.uk/bucket website.

Chimney warning from firefighters

FIRE chiefs are reminding people across the Black Country to make sure their chimneys are swept before lighting fires at home. As the temperatures drop, more people are starting to light fires and West Midlands Fire Service is urging homeowners to make sure the chimney is swept, as it could otherwise be a fire hazard.

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Christian Fellowship
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 9.30am & 11.30am
 Lorraine 07936 217340

Cradley Sports & Social Club
 Colley Lane, Colley Gate
 7.30pm
 Stacey 07411 486694

Lutley Community Centre
 Brookwillow Rd, Halesowen
 5.30pm & 7.30pm
 Lorraine 07936 217340

MONDAY
Halesowen
 Benjamins Banquet Suite
 Birmingham Street
 5.30pm
 Elaine 0121 550 6414

Halesbury School
 Feldon Lane, Halesowen
 B62 9DR
 5.30pm & 7.30pm
 Dawn 07859 010175

Old Hill
 Holy Trinity Church
 Halesowen Rd
 7pm
 Sarah 07815 071982

TUESDAY
Halesbury School
 Feldon Lane, Halesowen
 B62 9DR
 7pm
 Dawn 07859 010175

Wilson Hall Cradley Labour Club
 Colley Gate
 5.30pm & 7.30pm
 Stacey 07411 486694

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 7pm
 Ellie 07970 600763

Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
 Mogul Lane, Cradley
 5.15pm & 7.15pm
 Amanda 07862 274058

FRIDAY
Combaw Hall
 Halesowen Library
 Level 2, next to Asda,
 Halesowen
 8am, 10am & 12pm
 Michaela 07901 583236

Dudley Golf Club
 Turners Hill
 Rowley Regis, B65 9DP
 9.30am
 Maddie 07815 132320

Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
 Mogul Lane, Cradley
 9.30am
 Amanda 07862 274058

SATURDAY
Combaw Hall
 Halesowen Library, Level 2, next to Asda, Halesowen
 9.15am
 Michaela 07901 583236

Lightwoods Primary School
 (off Clent Rd), Oldbury B68 9ER
 8am + 10am
 Maddie 07815 132320

Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
 Mogul Lane, Cradley
 8am - 10am & 12pm
 Amanda 07862 274058

The Scout Centre
 Elizabeth Rd, Halesowen
 8.30am - 10.30am & 12.30pm
 Kerry 07508 838158

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Major sport event to boost region's economy by £1.5bn

THE West Midlands will receive a £1.5 billion boost from the Commonwealth Games, according to experts.

A surge in visitor numbers and an increase in international trade will deliver the windfall for the region in the first year after the competition, former Treasury economist Chris Walker said.

The West Midlands is also expected to benefit to the tune of £500m from construction work before the 2022 competition, including a state-of-the-art aquatics centre in Smethwick, which will host swimming and diving events. The Alexandra Stadium will also be revamped.

Bus service on track for 2022 Games

BUS travel in Walsall, Sandwell and Birmingham is to be transformed in the run-up to the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The new tram-style buses will have off-board ticketing and multiple-door boarding as well as dedicated bus lanes and priority through areas of congestion. Details are revealed in plans for the first three Sprint routes to be built in time for the Games being held in Birmingham and parts of the Black Country.

One of the services will operate along the A34 between Walsall and Birmingham via Sandwell, with a journey time of 40 minutes or less, ferrying passengers between the athletes' village and event locations.

The Alexander Stadium and a newly-built aquatic centre in Smethwick will be key venues.

The competition has been described as a 'golden opportunity' for the region.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said: "It is vital the Commonwealth Games leaves a legacy for the region.

"We are determined we do this through the transport investments we are developing, the housing that will replace the athlete's village and the sports facilities.

Golden

Dennis Hone, group board member for Mace, which conducted the research, and former chief executive of the Olympic Delivery Authority, said: "The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham is a golden opportunity to use global sport and infrastructure investment to deliver transformational change, a positive lasting legacy and a boost to UK exports to the fast-growing countries of the Commonwealth.

"If we get it right, the 2022 Commonwealth Games will be so much more than just sport – they can represent a landmark period of change and growth for an entire region and help boost the UK's global trade post-Brexit."



Emergency services make their way up the telecoms tower

Heroes scale 200ft tower for rescue

RESCUE teams have been praised after scaling a 200ft tower to reach a stranded and vulnerable man.

The man, thought to be in his 20s, had climbed a telecoms tower on Turners Hill in Oldbury.

Medics and the fire service's rope rescue team displayed 'amazing heroism' to bring him safely back down on Friday evening, police chiefs said.

Chief Inspector Jack Hadley of West Midlands Police, said: "Outstanding response to a stranded male in crisis. Amazing heroism shown by West Midlands Ambulance Service and West Midlands Fire Service's specialist rope rescue teams working together to rescue the man.

"Glad to say the brilliant response meant he got down safely and is now being supported. Much respect."

The rescued man is now in the care of a mental health team, paramedics have said.

Meanwhile, on Saturday from around 6.40am, the M6 was closed for more than five hours at Junction 10 for Walsall after a man climbed over the railings on the bridge over the motorway.

Motorists faced 90-minute delays in both directions.

Teenage pair locked up for moped theft

TWO teenagers have been locked up after another youngster was threatened with a knife and had his moped stolen from a supermarket car park.

Thomas Jellyman was threatened with a kitchen knife with an eight-inch blade as he sat on his bike in the car park of Asda, St Lawrence Way, Darlaston, on August 26, 2016. Mr Richard McConaghy, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Jellyman reported the robbery to police. The moped was found a couple of days later with £35 cash untouched under the seat and the suspects were arrested soon afterwards.

A month later Mr Jellyman was approached by Sell – breaking the terms of his bail – in Walsall town centre and said he would get the keys back if he dropped the charges.

The trio, all aged 19 but 17 at the time, admitted being involved. Sell from Sandwell Street, Dudley, also pleaded guilty to attempting to perverting the course of justice and was given three years detention in a Young Offenders Institution.

Bell, of no fixed address, admitted possessing a knife and got two years four months detention. Parkes of Basset Close, Willenhall, who played a lesser role and has mental health issues, was handed a suspended sentence of 16 months detention.

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A SOLICITOR'S firm is waiving the cost of one of its will writing service to raise funds for charity.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Come on mayor, drop the Ali G look

REMEMBER that remarkably unfunny comedian who went around pretending to be Mayor of Stafford, and took to Twitter making offensive comments about other mayors and genuinely acting like a bit of an idiot?

I only mention it because from reports this week it sounds like he might be operating in Sheffield.

Councillor Magid Magid – presumably his parents were short of ideas when it came to choosing a name – has certainly taken, shall we say, an unconventional approach to the job since he became mayor.

He turns up to civic functions dressed like Ali G, wears the mayoral chains like it's a bit of bling he bought from Cash Converters, and has just returned from Amsterdam where he talked about youth culture. Then there was the mayor-making ceremony, which was accompanied by incidental music from Star Wars, and the Superman theme tune. Oh, and during an interview with a newspaper last week, he appeared to think Queen Victoria was still on the throne.

Really, where do they find these people? You might remember how in this year's local elections Tettenhall's Sohail Khan decided he was going to rap his way onto Wolverhampton Council, causing a bit of controversy with a pistol along the way.

The sad thing about Magid Magid is he probably does have a genuine tale to tell. He arrived in Britain from Somalia as a five-year-old refugee from the civil war, spoke no English, and went on to study at Hull University. He could have been an inspirational role model, but instead he has chosen to turn his office into a laughing stock. There never anything less cool than politicians trying to get down with the kids. Epic fail, I believe the phrase is.

□ □ □

CRAIG Hardwick caught two men on camera while they were dumping an old mattress in his back garden. Far from apologetic, they can be heard on Mr Hardwick's video giving him an earful, telling him he was racist for objecting.

I really hope these two get the book thrown at them, and are either fined several thousand pounds or spend a few months in prison, but I won't be holding my breath.

West Mercia Police has recently set up a website where people can grass up bad drivers by uploading their dash-cam footage, so why don't we have a similar scheme for fly-tippers, fly-posters and litter louts? I know which bothers me the most. And I know which one gets the most attention from the authorities.

Actor's lost his Spacey as a box office draw with flop



How the mighty have fallen, as under-fire Kevin Spacey's latest movie predictably fails



Don't let him be misunderstood – Chief Constable of West Mercia, Anthony Bangham



Jeremy Paxman on University Challenge, surprised at the lack of knowledge about the M1?

Wolver not a winner, but people are great

IN a poll of 55,000 dimwits, Wolverhampton has been voted Britain's second-worst city, after Bradford. All I can add to the debate is that I worked in Wolverhampton for 28 years and met some of the best people I have ever known.

I CAN'T provide the same ringing endorsement for Bradford. My father was born in the city. I recall him once saying: "I come from Bradford, and Bradford is a bloody good place to come from."

HOW are the mighty fallen. Kevin Spacey, accused last year of sexual harassment dating back many years, made a pitiful £99 this week on the opening night of his new movie. This is the same Kevin Spacey who delivered that mammoth dramatic masterclass as Frank Underwood – plotter, killer and president – in the Netflix version of House of Cards. I've just finished watching all 65 hour-long episodes, made between 2013 and 2017 and what an extraordinary tour de force it was. But, justice must be done, no matter how much shining talent it drags off into obscurity.

IN some versions of this blog on Tuesday, the Colosseum in Rome appeared as the Coliseum. Traditionally, 'coliseum' refers to any big outdoor arena while the one in Rome is 'Colosseum'. However, some of the new online dictionaries suggest that 'coliseum' is gradually taking over. So while I admit to a mistake, it was possibly not a colisal one.

YOU have to be pretty damn thuggish these days to get into prison. The courts are so soft that only the nastiest get banged up. They are the ones who use extreme violence, and the most grotesque weapons, to terrify, wound or

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



kill their innocent victims. So how are we supposed to react to the news that some of these killers, maimers, extorters and serial burglars are so scared by the conditions in Birmingham Prison that they are afraid to leave their cells? Here is a liberal dilemma: do we have to feel really, really, genuinely sorry for them or is it okay just to pretend?

A READER sends me his take on the Birmingham Prison scandal: "Prison inspectors were horrified to see cockroaches, vomit, flies, human excrement, rat droppings and drug paraphernalia. It got even worse after they left New Street Station."

MY eye was caught by the tale of the woman who lost a contact lens and assumed it had fallen out. Twenty-eight years later it was discovered by a surgeon removing a cyst from her eye. I bet there can't be many of us contact-lens wearers who do not lose one from time to time, usually for a few minutes. But I had a colleague who realised his rigid gas-permeable lens (the little hard-glass sort) had slipped into the space between eyeball and socket. He thought no more about it. Later, sitting in a bar on holiday, he felt something and assumed it was an insect on his cheek. Turned out to be the missing lens. And when I say "later," I mean 18 months later.

A NEW treatment for enlarged prostate glands takes only five minutes and will soon be available on the NHS. This miracle cure in-

volves aiming jets of steam at the affected area. It goes without saying, in these cash-strapped times, that there will be long queues at the prostate-zapping clinics. Even so, chaps, do not try this at home.

BY some terrible mishap in February of this year, people got the idea that the Chief Constable of West Mercia, Anthony Bangham, was in favour of nicking speeders at just 1mph over the limit. It led to this statement from him: "Comments I made last week have led to a perception that the police are going to be pursuing and prosecuting drivers just one mph over the speed limit. That is not the case and was never advocated." Six months on, incredibly, Mr Bangham has again created the impression that he favours zero-tolerance policy. As Oscar Wilde might have put it: To be misunderstood once may be considered unfortunate. To be misunderstood twice looks like carelessness.

WE don't want people vaping on the buses, agreed? Whatever the health experts may tell us of its alleged benefits, vaping is just plain anti-social. It not only stinks but, worst of all, it shows exactly where the vaper's breath – great, billowing clouds of scented breath – is going. You are suddenly made unpleasantly aware that you are breathing in someone else's expelled air. Revolting.

INTERESTING to see that among the undoubted brilliance of University Challenge (BBC2), the youngsters did not know where the M1 motorway goes and thought the nation which provided sanctuary for the defeated Kaiser in 1918 was the UK. Brilliant at quantum physics, not so good at finding Leeds. Or Kaisers.

TALKING POINT



A waste of time, with service by jobsworths

MY green bin – i.e. the bin that is used for garden refuse – has not been very full of late, with no lawn cuttings, what with the scorched earth it has been instead. Ergo, there have been several collection rounds made by the appropriate binmen where my green bin has been absent.

My logical mind therefore put two and two together to get five and thought after clearing some debris and cutting back stuff that WAS growing in this recent interminable heat – resulting in four bin bags of extra greenery apart from one very full wheelie bin – there would have been no problem in the extra twigs, weeds and otherwise eminently crushable stuff, being chucked in the back of the lorry.

I'm pretty sure that before, when there was something extra put out for the boys in bright yellow, they scooped it up without a complaint. So when I arrived back from a hard day's toil to find the bags still stoically in place on the drive, I was a little disheartened.

Surely collectors could use a little initiative sometimes and think, well, a few extra bags won't matter, and just do the decent thing, even if it meant splitting the bags open and putting the plastic bits back in the wheelie bin, is that really too much to ask? In the meantime, I've since had to wait for the next collection day, two weeks later, and keep rotting vegetation in the garage next to the tumble drier.

I made damn sure that for the next collection ALL the said natural waste was reduced to a pulp in order to fit into my wheelie bin, without a hint of spillage over the rim at the top. It meant some death-defying rampant jumping up and down inside the bin holding onto an overhead eave, but what the heck? It all fit in and as a result, was whisked away.

One of these days I'm going to do myself an injury. I wonder how I'd get on if I did fall out of a wheelie bin? Could I sue the council? After all people trip over paving stones and get away with it.

And another thing, if I want to go down the tip and just drop off sundry items collected from a clear-out in bin bags, I don't see why I should have to sort them out into plastics, metals, cardboard etc., that way madness lies. Half the time it means actually disassembling items. Surely the tip chaps are there to do exactly that, otherwise what exactly are they doing?

Our household is obsessed when it comes to saving the planet. Our normal rubbish bin is barely used as everything possible is recycled. So I think we qualify for some semblance of charity from council operatives who are supposed to be working on our behalf. After all, what do we pay our council tax for?

GRAEME ANDREW

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Water waste as leak not repaired

FOR the last few months, there have been, that I know of, two water leaks in the Dudley area, one at the junction of the road that leads to St Mark's Church, Pensnett, and the other in the centre of Commonsides, at its junction with Bromley.

I personally have contacted Dudley Council at least twice regarding this. I cannot understand the system they use to refer to matters, neither can I understand why they tell me to contact South Staffs Water direct. Surely they have better means of doing this than I have? The leak by St Mark's was at-

In breach of safety regulations

FOR most of my life I have pursued a healthy lifestyle, keeping fit into my 60s. But a couple of years ago I was diagnosed with a heart condition. The cause remains a mystery, but I have to live with it, relying on tablets and treatments.

I am appalled that Brexit could disrupt the flow of medications and drugs that I and many others depend upon. Armed with this knowledge, any caring government would remove the obstacles by staying in the customs union, ensuring frictionless trade, but it seems this uncaring Tory government will continue with their plan regardless.

From my knowledge of Health and Safety regulations, I believe any activity that places a person in danger must cease immediately. By leaving the customs union and taking such risks, I believe the government would be in breach of both EU and UK health and safety regulations.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Dudley

tended to a few weeks ago. For several days barriers were in place, and if my memory serves, there were traffic lights – a four-way system – causing chaos. But water is still running away. Years ago, my brother-in-law worked for a company that specialised in the repairing of water leaks. He would set about finding the leak by the old fashioned 'two twigs' method, dig a hole, find the leak, and repair it. So why cannot leaks be repaired by new methods – quickly.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipsa at complaints@ipsa.co.uk or by post at Ipsa, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 3DF

Baroness joins fight

LEADING eye research charity Fight for Sight is launching a campaign to raise awareness of eye health and the desperate need for more research funding.

This is an issue close to my heart. Very many people of my age are starting to have difficulty with their sight and right now there are over two million people in the UK affected by sight loss – a figure set to double by 2050.

The answer lies in research. Breakthroughs have already led to pioneering treatments that have trans-

formed people's lives – for example, cataract surgery which benefits hundreds of thousands of people every year.

However, eye research remains woefully underfunded. A Fight for Sight review shows that just one per cent of public grant funding went to this area last year.

I hope others will join me this week in supporting Fight for Sight to achieve the next breakthrough, so we can build a future where everyone can see.

RT HON BARONESS BETTY BOOTHROYD
House of Lords

No surprise work runs over time

THE time delay on the extension work at the Oldbury viaduct must be the most predictable announcement of the year.

Initially we were told it would take 18 months from April, 2017.

If it is finished by this time next year I will be pleasantly surprised.

Whenever I drive past at least half and possibly two thirds of the workers at road level are either standing about talking, leaning on a fence or walking slowly from one place to another.

If those working below the deck are as productive no wonder the work is running over time.

It must be costing industry millions in time lost as their vehicles are delayed.

MR T PRITCHARD
Halesowen

Great support from Heathens

ON behalf of all the trustees and volunteers at Dudley Stroke Association I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Wolverhampton Speedway who made the FAST Golden Hammer event at Monmore Green on August 13 such a huge success.

Cradley Heathens yet again have shown tremendous support and our bucket collection alone reached £330.10.

ROGER EDWARDS
Dudley Stroke Association

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8 Disqualified driver given eight months

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 30, 2018

AN 'intelligent' university graduate, who did not have the sense to stop a car under police orders has been jailed for eight months.

Banned motorist Vijay Mattu drove into trouble when he was spotted at the wheel of a Kia in Smethwick High Street on July 24. The 25-year-old made off when the patrol car activated its siren and blue lights, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He ignored a no-entry sign and hurtled down a one-way street in the wrong direction at 50 mph.

Mattu careered through a red light before turning off his headlights while escaping from a cul-de-sac he had turned into, said Mr Mark Stephens, prosecuting.

The Kia, on false plates, struck the kerb at speed, deflating a tyre before he lost control, swept across a T-junction and smashed into a fence, causing £500 damage. He told police the Kia belonged to his girlfriend.

Mr Timothy Harrington, defending, said: "He was driving when he should not have done and panicked. He is an educated man with a university degree who wishes to return to the offence-free life he led until last year."

The defendant, from Station Road, Handsworth, admitted dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and without insurance. He was banned for three years on his release from jail.

Chainsaw theft from van captured on CCTV

TWO thieves were captured on CCTV breaking into a van and taking off with chainsaws.

The footage also shows them stealing other equipment from the locked van belonging to Hortech Ltd of Stone, Staffordshire. The incident happened when the car was parked in Toll End Road, Tipton, between 8.50am and 11.45am on August 21.

Prison riots 'could have been stopped' says leaked report

Young fan surprised by Albion stars



Albion midfielder Chris Brunt and striker Dwight Gayle took time with super fan William Bayley

A YOUNG Albion fan who watched his team scored seven goals at The Hawthorns against QPR was in seventh heaven yet again - when two star players visited him.

Superfan William Bayley was left stunned when two of the first team stars turned up at his Aldridge home for a surprise visit.

Midfielder Chris Brunt and striker Dwight Gayle took time out to meet the seven-year-old season ticket

holder, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of two.

After undergoing immediate emergency surgery, the brave youngster started on chemotherapy to clear any cancerous cells left behind.

He has been undergoing intermittent chemotherapy since and his family are now hopeful he is heading towards the end of treatment.

The visit came as part of the 'Albion Stars' programme. The life-long Bag-

gies fanatic played football with his heroes in his back garden.

The players, who signed keepsakes for the youngster, also surprised William with a personalised home shirt and tickets to the next Hawthorns fixture against Stoke City.

William will attend the match with his brother Alex, four, and parents Josette, 39, and Mark, 45. Josette said: "William had absolutely no idea it was going to happen."

PRISON riots at HMP Birmingham should and could have been prevented, according to a secret report.

The chairman of the prison's Independent Monitoring Board said the potential for serious unrest should have been foreseen and that a combination of staff cuts and a rising prison population was a 'recipe for disaster'.

Operators G4S have since lost control of the Winson Green prison. The Government will run it for at least six months. The Government report said the riot 'could and should have been prevented' and that staff 'had, in the preceding year, become worn down by chronic staffing shortages'.

The report said staff 'had gradually relinquished authority to the prisoners who were in effect policing themselves for much of the time'.

Morale

The president of the Governors' Association, Andrea Albutt, said declining morale among workers led to an environment where the prisoners were allowed to take control.

Roger Swindells, chairman of the Independent Monitoring Board, said: "It's very simple. If you take 40 per cent out of the budget, if you cut staffing by 30 per cent, if you increase prisoner numbers, you are creating a recipe for disaster and the disaster on this occasion landed on Birmingham's doorstep."

The Government commissioned a report into the riot but said it was 'not appropriate to release any part' of it because it could 'compromise security arrangements'. However, parts of the report have been leaked in an ITV documentary.

Owners hit out as pubs in dog ban

JD Wetherspoon is banning dogs from all of its 936 pubs.

The chain, which has sites across the Black Country and Staffordshire, has said no dogs except assistance dogs will be allowed into its pubs from September 10. It comes after staff complained about cleaning up dog mess and raised issues of hygiene and the pets scaring children.

Wetherspoons spokesman Eddie Gershon said: "Even well-behaved dogs can be unpredictable, every dog owner thinks their dog is perfect. We welcome a lot of children and families. Younger children in particular can be unpredictable around dogs."

Dog owners have hit out at the company's decision. Carol Henley, 71, from Dudley, said: "My son has two Bulldogs. He lives in Birmingham and they can take their dogs in nearly every pub they go to."

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MAGAZINE

Meet secret weapon behind Bake Off star

A TEA room owner has been revealed as the secret weapon behind a Black Country contestant in TV's Great British Bake Off.

But Stephanie Morrison says she is still mystified over the identity of the man she has helped.

Millions watched the opening of the Channel Four show on Tuesday night, in which contestants are set challenges by Prue Leith and Paul Hollywood. One of them, Terry, whose surname has not been revealed, is understood to be a former air steward from Dudley.

He is armed with an array of equipment borrowed from Stephanie's Kitchen Tea Room in Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire. Stephanie loans out specialist baking trays and icing bags as part of her business. She says Terry was a little secretive when she asked him why he was borrowing the equipment and the penny dropped when she saw his face on previews for the show.

Channel Four has been protective over the details of the contestants but Terry is now believed to be living in the Bridgnorth area.

Stephanie said: "He came in to hire some equipment in May. He was very cagey about it. He wouldn't tell me what he was doing and never asked for any advice. It's not my place to tell it but he has a fantastic story. He's a really interesting man, and his story is going to melt hearts. He's definitely one to watch."

Terry, a technician who makes prosthetic limbs, looked like being the first to leave the tent after two poor rounds in the opening biscuit week but was saved by his showstopper challenge, creating a 'selfie' biscuit cake that was described as being like an impressionist painting by Prue.



Tea room boss Stephanie Morrison



Bake Off contestant Terry, from Dudley

Post office will reopen

A POST office is set to re-open under a major modernisation programme.

Manor Lane Post Office in Halesowen will return next door to its former home and open for longer periods.

The post office will now move to Manor Pharmacy and serve customers for more than 52 hours a week – an extra five hours and 30 minutes than at its previous location.

Mathew Wilkes, Post Office area network change manager, said: "We are confident that this vibrant new-style Post Office at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs."

The re-opening, set for October 3 at 1pm, follows the former Manor Lane Post Office's closure in April 2017 after the withdrawal of the premises.

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10 Half planning on no-deal Brexit, survey reveals

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 30, 2018

HALF of people across the West Midlands expect a 'no deal' Brexit and plan to spend accordingly, a new survey has found.

The survey of 279 members of the public in the region was commissioned by KPMG. Overall 50 per cent said a 'no deal' Brexit was likely and 20 per cent that it was unlikely.

A clear majority of the region's respondents believe a no-deal scenario would have a significant impact on their life with 69 per cent thinking prices would rise and 68 per cent saying they would change their consumer behaviour. Some 45 per cent believe a no-deal will be bad for the country while 22 per cent think it will be good.

Karl Edge, Midlands regional chairman of KPMG, said: "This survey shows the public expect a 'no deal' Brexit and plan to spend accordingly.

The results reveal how people are anticipating substantial disruption in the short to medium term, before they expect Brexit to have a more positive effect on the economy in the medium to long term.

In terms of behavioural change in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit 40 per cent in the West Midlands said they were very likely or likely to cut everyday spending, 42 per cent said they were very likely or likely to cut non-essential spending, 45 per cent very likely or likely to cut luxury spending and 49 per cent that they were very likely or likely to delay major purchases.

Burst pipe causes misery for drivers

A BURST water main caused misery for residents and drivers in Great Barr.

The pipe went in Chapel Lane, on Thursday morning. Drivers were taken on an eight-mile diversion because a stretch was closed between the junctions of Coronation Road and Crook Lane.



Sandwell Mayor Councillor Joy Edis, left, and Deputy Councillor Carol Gault



Councillor Marco Longhi is serving a second term as Walsall Mayor



Jaguar LandRover at the i54 estate



Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley



Wolverhampton Mayor Councillor Phil Page



Cars like this Jaguar XJ are used to carry out official council duties

£133k spent on council Jags

THOUSANDS of pounds of taxpayers' cash is being spent on luxury cars for mayors and council officials, figures have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request by the TaxPayers' Alliance has revealed big spending on posh Jaguars for mayors and other council officials across the Black Country and Staf-

fordshire. The Alliance have called it 'excessive' when most councils are already strapped for cash, and are calling for mayors to use their own vehicles or even public transport to attend events.

But authority chiefs have hit back, saying the role of mayor is a 'prestigious' and 'historic' one which warrants its own car. They also say they are supporting a local company

and jobs by only buying or leasing Jaguars. JLR has a factory on the i54 site, near Wolverhampton, and is building a brand new huge showroom on the Penn Road in the city.

Figures show that overall councils in the Black Country spent about £89,000 since 2015 on various high class transport, while Staffordshire County Council spent £44,000 on the running of a Jaguar XJL. In the

Black Country, Walsall council spent £31,387.60 on using and maintaining both a Jaguar XJ 3.0 V6 Portfolio (2013) and Jaguar XJ 2.7 Sovereign (2007) over the last three years, Dudley spent £24,668.60 on a Jaguar XF (Luxury) 2.0 V6 Diesel, Wolverhampton spent £22,584 on a Jaguar XJ, and Sandwell spent £10,383.90 on a Jaguar XJ 30L.

Councillor Steve Eling, leader of

Sandwell Council, said: "Sandwell Council does not lease any luxury vehicles for use by the mayor or councillors. The council owns a number of vehicles, which are used to take the mayor, deputy mayor, cabinet members and officers to meetings, events and other commitments that they are required to attend in Sandwell and around the West Midlands where it is appropriate to do so."

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A PRIMARY school building is to undergo a £20,000 revamp overseen by a Smethwick firm, after winning a competition.

Bromley Pensnett Primary will see its learning hub for parents and children brought back to life after five years of inactivity and falling into disrepair.

Property management firm Novus base at Summit Crescent Industrial Estate, will oversee a full refurbishment of the building as part of the company's fifth anniversary.

A team of 10 will install a new roof, repair and redecorate the interior and exterior, fit new steps, replace doors and flooring, and install a new kitchen.

Bromley Pensnett Primary School caters for 320 children aged between three and 11. Head Helen Tomlinson said: "Our community currently lacks many of the services so vital to parents, carers and children at the school. This project from Novus will ensure we can really increase the scope of the help and support we can offer to those who need it most."

The refurbishment comes as part of a competition by Novus to support worthwhile projects in the communities it operates in, as voted for by people in the area.

Once works have concluded the Learning Hub will provide a space where parents and carers can visit for support and advice.

Workers will return to complete Black Country's 'super-hospital'

IT has stood idle, gathering mould as water seeped inside, but it looks like the Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick, will soon be back on track for construction.

Last week the Government agree more than £300 million of taxpayers' money would be laid out to finish work on the stalled project, with work getting underway, hopefully, by November.

The latest millions pledged will take the final bill for the hospital to more than half a million pounds when the scheduled opening happens in 2022 – four years later than originally planned.

In the meantime urgent repairs and weather proofing work is needed at the site, which has been at the mercy of the elements – a prolonged winter, combined with the searing heat of recent months, – since building company Carillion collapsed in January.

Up to £20 million will be spent, to secure the site from further weather damage before the winter, so construction work by a new contractor can start, in earnest, next spring. Despite the best efforts of maintenance staff to protect the vast site from the worst of the wind and rain over the last seven months, some areas inside are suffering from mould where water has seeped in.

A handful of former Carillion workers have been kept at the site by the Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.

Rob Maiden, the former safety manager on the construction site, said all



The unfinished 'super-hospital' in Smethwick



Rob Maiden, among the scaffolding and girders in place for eight months



Rob with some of the decay on the site

plasterboarding in the building would need to be checked for damp to ensure there was no further risk of mould.

Frustrating

"Some of it will have to be replaced, along with some of the building materials that have run out of date, like the adhesives, and some of the metalwork that won't be able to be salvaged," he said. He admitted it had been "sad and really frustrating" to see work on the project stalled for so many months.

One area of mould is above and around a window on the second level – what will become a clinical and medical floor – overlooking an interior courtyard. Mr Maiden said the water was thought

to have got in through an uncapped concrete parapet on the fifth level.

He said there were also concerns about parts of the expensive air conditioning system. "It had to be installed during the construction so, if it has to be replaced it could mean having to remove panels from the outside walls."

When Carillion collapsed the company had around 70 people at the site, but since April there have been just six or seven to cover the whole building.

Plastic sheeting has been used to keep the water out of vulnerable areas and much of the metalwork waiting to be installed is already weatherproofed, but Richard Molloy, the former Carillion finance director for the project, admitted

it was 'impossible' to keep all the water out. Mr Molloy, part of the original bidding team for the project back in 2015, said it had been 'frustrating' watching the empty building deteriorate despite their best efforts.

But he stressed: "The structure of the building is absolutely fine, as is the facade that surrounds it. It's an incredible design and is going to provide a wonderful facility for local people when it is completed."

The idea of a second private finance deal, similar to the one with Carillion, has been dropped and instead the money will come from the taxpayer.

When completed, Midland Metropolitan will be equipped with state-of-the-

art diagnostic equipment, 15 operating theatres, and at least 669 beds. It will provide acute care for adults and children as well as maternity care and specialised surgery.

But the four year delay – originally the hospital was due to be handed over to the trust this month – will place added strain on the existing hospital services in the area.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said: "The collapse of Carillion left everybody involved in this project in a challenging situation.

"That we have successfully found a way forward is testament to the work of the Trust, Government and local partners."

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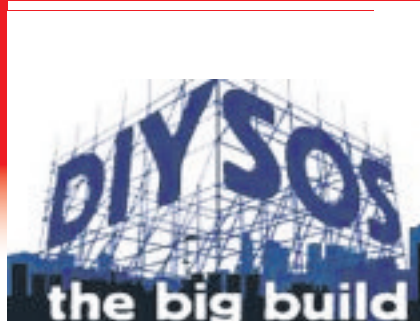
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Average earnings below decade ago

AVERAGE earnings are still £13 a week lower than a decade ago, an economic think tank has reported.

Just over two million more people have found work since the financial crash of 2008, with more than a million of those in the poorest third of households, the research by the Resolution Foundation showed.

However, with 800,000 on zero-hours contracts, job insecurity is still "widespread" and real average earnings are still £13 a week less than a decade ago, it said. TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady accused the Government of turning a blind eye to stagnating wages.

Call for crackdown on antique guns

IN a bid to tackle the use of antique guns by criminals, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is calling on the government to tighten firearms laws.

He is urging changes to nine gun categories as concern grows over gang members buying antique weapons.

David Jamieson said: "It is vital the government makes it much harder for gang members and criminals in the West Midlands and beyond to get their hands on antique guns which can be turned into deadly weapons with relative ease. It needs to ensure obsolete calibre firearms don't fall into the wrong hands."

Ban on kitten and puppy sales likely

THE sale of puppies and kittens by pet shops and other commercial dealers will be banned under plans put out for consultation by the Government.

Anyone buying or adopting a pet less than six months old will have to deal directly with the breeder or a rescue centre under the proposed ban.

The move aims to reduce serious health problems and socialisation issues which afflict pets kept in poor conditions by unscrupulous, profit-driven breeders.

Call for four minute maximum on showers

FAMILIES in the region have been urged to consider how much water they are using after a study found people shower for 10 minutes on average. This summer's heatwave led to water shortages in parts of the UK.

Experts say time in the shower should be limited to four minutes but a new survey found people in the West Midlands generally spend 10 minutes having a wash.

Election for youth representatives

ELECTIONS will soon be held for 16 new Youth Commissioners in the West Midlands. The young people, who must be aged 18 or under, will be voted for by their peers and will represent them over a two year term.

The unpaid role is to advise the Police and Crime Commissioner on issues affecting children and liaise with police officers.

Nominations open on September 3. People will then have two weeks to vote for their chosen candidate online with the voting period starting on October 2 and closing on October 16.

Property firm in move to city hub

PROPERTY services specialist Fortem, which works for Dudley and Walsall councils, has chosen Birmingham as its new operational hub.

It manages the repairs and maintenance of thousands of homes in the West Midlands and also refurbishes public buildings, schools and leisure centres. It looks after 21,000 homes owned by Birmingham City Council.

Delay to launch of rental bike scheme

THE roll-out of rental bikes across the Black Country has been delayed.

Nextbike won a bike concession from the Transport for West Midlands to introduce the so-called Boris Bikes in the region.

In June, the firm said 900 rental bikes would be introduced in Wolverhampton from September. This would be followed by 300 in each of Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell.

However, last week firm managing director Julian Scriven said the timescale had changed.

He said: "We are on track to release our first 100 West Midlands bikes at the University of Birmingham in September, and we are continuing to plan with Transport for West Midlands for the full first stage roll out across the rest of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry that is due over the

coming months. The remaining bikes will hit the streets of Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Solihull next year as planned."

Bikes will be each have docking stations dotted around the area they serve. It will cost 50p to use a bike per 30 minutes. Subscription packages will be available for £30-a-year with the first 30 minutes free, then 25p for each 30 minutes after.

Meanwhile, another bicycle hire firm is threatening to pull out of a major city due to theft and vandalism.

Mobike warned it will end its service unless there is a reduction in people stealing and damaging its bikes in Manchester, which are unlocked with an app. The Chinese company said 10 per cent of its Manchester fleet was taken out of use last month. It described the figure as 'unsustainable'.

All smiles as students make the GCSE grade

By Heather Large

PUPILS across the Black Country were all smiles after making the grade at GCSE.

Across the country pass rates rose in the wake of the biggest exams shake-up for a generation.

For some subjects, the traditional A* to G grades are being phased out, to be replaced with a 9 to 1 system.

In the West Midlands the pass rate fell slightly to 63.1 per cent but success stories included Arshvir Dhaliwal, from Sedgley, who attends King Edward VI Five Ways School in Birmingham and achieved nine 9s, an 8 and a 7.

At Crestwood School and Sixth Form in Kingswinford, there were a total of 119 grade 7, 8 or 9s across all subjects, with almost a quarter of the year group achieving these top grades in English.

The number of students achieving the top grade at Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal has more than doubled. Some 84 per cent passed English and 73 per cent passed maths.

Dudley College of Technology saw 49 per cent of its students achieve A*-C grades in mathematics, and 67 per cent in English. Grandmother June Wilson-Smith, aged 55, who came back into education to keep her brain active and scored a grade 7 in English.

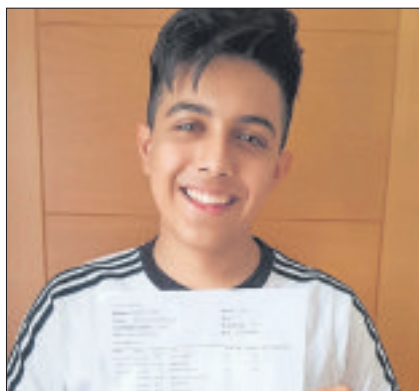
At Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale 64 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 or higher and in maths 57 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 or above. Overall, half of the students achieved at least a grade 4 in English and maths.

Raihaanah Kulthoom, of Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, secured four 9s, two A*s, five 8s and one A. In English, 64 per cent of students achieved Grade 4 or above.

As Bishop Milner Catholic College saw 70 per cent of students achieve five or more standard passes including English and maths, Ishika Patel scored six grade 9s and four grade 8s.



Pupils celebrate their exam success at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy



High achiever Arshvir Dhaliwal, from Sedgley



Grandmother Julie Wilson-Brown celebrates

Stab threat Mamba addict is locked up after robbery spree in Dudley



Dean Taylor – jailed for eight years

A BLACK Mamba addict who robbed six people in Dudley to feed his habit has been jailed for eight years.

Five of the offences were committed in as many days by 25-year-old Dean Taylor from Birmingham who pulled a knife on one victim and threatened to stab others, a judge was told.

The prolific offender ambushed his former partner as she left her home on November 21 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He leapt from behind a skip and stifled her screams for help by putting his hand over her mouth and forcing her back into the property.

She dropped some of her possessions during the struggle and he grabbed her phone and a £5 note before running away chased by her, said Miss Blondelle Thompson, prosecuting. Taylor threw the mobile at his ex after realising it was locked.

He robbed two teenagers of a mobile and change after threatening to

stab them on the top deck of a bus travelling from Dudley to the Merry Hill shopping centre on December 30, continued the prosecutor.

The next day he stole a phone at knife-point from a young man in Dudley High Street, then on New Year's Day he pushed a 70-year-old woman into her husband, knocking the 72-year-old man to the ground in High Street, Brierley Hill. Taylor escaped with her handbag that contained a mobile phone, cash and gifts.

Threatening

Finally he was given £10 after threatening to stab a passer-by in Mill Street, Brierley Hill, on January 3.

He was picked out on an ID parade by all his victims as being the man who robbed them.

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending, said: "He has been addicted to Mamba and it has ruined his life."

But the death of the defendant's

21-year-old brother in prison from a Mamba overdose this year and the loss of his mother to cancer three months later had greatly affected Taylor, the court was told.

The lawyer added: "These came as huge blows to him and have changed his view on life. He now has the resolve to stay off drugs."

Taylor, of Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston, who started offending when aged 16, has been in custody since his arrest and recently tested drug free, it was said.

He pleaded guilty to the six robberies, assault and possession of a knife.

Judge Simon Ward ruled that he posed a significant danger to the general public and jailed him for eight years with two years more monitoring than normal on his release.

He must serve at least two thirds of the custodial term behind bars before being considered for parole.

Camera is rescued from the bear's lair

AN INQUISITIVE two-year-old who dropped her camera into a bear enclosure at Dudley Zoo has had it returned by staff.

Ruby Gartshore accidentally dropped her nan's pink camera into black bear Inca's enclosure.

The camera was found still in fully-working order and the zoo returned it to Ruby's grandmother, Gail Gartshore, who has since sent a donation to buy treats for the 38-year-old bear, thought to be the oldest in the world.

Keeper Sam Grove used the cash to buy snacks including kiwi fruit, pineapple, eggs, lemon curd and yoghurt for the Asiatic black bear.

Mrs Gartshore had been visiting the zoo with her son Lee, his partner Laura and their two girls, Ruby, who turns three in November, and Rosie who is nearly one.

She said: "Ruby loves taking pictures and had been using my camera around the zoo. When I picked her up to show her the bear I didn't realise she was still holding it and it fell out of her hands into the enclosure below."

"Lee called the zoo offices to report it and I was so grateful when I heard keepers would be able to get the camera. It's working perfectly."

"The donation was a little token of my appreciation so staff could treat the bear to something nice. We had a wonderful day out at the zoo."

Assistant curator Jay Haywood said: "Senior keeper Sarah Evans managed to get the camera out of the paddock when Inca was asleep."

Three held after BMW police chase

THREE teenagers were arrested after police pursued a stolen BMW through the streets of Halesowen.

West Midlands Police arrested three youths just off Manor Lane and in Illey Lane. Two 17-year-olds have been bailed until September 17 and the 18-year-old has been released pending further investigation.

The incident took place at 4.15am on August 20. The BMW was stolen in Bromsgrove, police said.

The West Midlands Police Traffic Unit tweeted: "Teamwork last night between us, National Police Air Service and West Midlands Police Dogs Unit resulted in the three very muddy occupants of this BMW being arrested in fields after it was pursued around Halesowen. It was stolen in a burglary the night before."

Shovelicious proves to be delicious

IT sold 72 pints in the space of a football match. And in a weekend it managed to sell out of its entire first run.

Drinkers at Lye's The Shovel Inn were celebrating the birth of a new beer and the release of the pub's 2,001st brew. Shovelicious sold 288 pints on its debut weekend. The 4.8 per cent pale amber beer has been brewed by Envile Ales especially for the pub.

Landlord Steve Hopkins is excited about its future.

The 56-year-old, from Lye, said: "When I first took over in 2005 my aim was to be a little bit different. I have been in the industry since I was 11."

"We sold the first lot out in 90 minutes, it was really well-received. It is a heavy citrus ale with 80 per cent citrus hops in it. I am quietly confident that it is going to bring new business to the pub."



The Holy Austin Rock Houses at Kinver Edge, near Kinver in South Staffordshire, are cared for by the National Trust and attract visitors from across the UK

Cave houses are voted among top UK locations

AN HISTORIC woodland ridge on the edge of the Black Country has been dubbed a "hidden gem" of the UK after day-trippers named it one of their must-visit destinations.

The Rock Houses at Kinver Edge, near Stourbridge, are well known for being the last troglodyte – caveman – dwellings occupied in England.

Owned by the National Trust, they are described as a place "with sweeping views, a wildlife haven in the heath and unique homes carved straight into the rock".

Following their restoration, visitors are now able to walk around the dwellings and see what life was like for inhabitants in different times, including the Martindale Caves, which have been restored to their 1930s appearance.

Family

A total of 1,400 people from across the UK were surveyed by house-builder McCarthy and Stone to choose the nation's "hidden gems". Its aim was to find the UK's best

locations and attractions for family days out, day trips or short breaks away, the voters ranged in age, gender and geographic demographics.

The Rock Houses proved a sought-after destination for people in the South East and West Midlands, and claimed votes from the North East and Scotland. It won six per cent of the total votes, coming fourth overall after Cornwall's Minack Theatre, which claimed 17 per cent, the Shell Grotto in Kent, 13 per cent, and Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 11 per cent.

Joy for Jo as shuttle service hits 5m mark

AND now arriving at platform one – passenger number five million!

Jo Aldred was presented with a gift voucher, flowers and a framed certificate as she stepped off the Stourbridge Shuttle – much to her surprise.

Mrs Aldred, who lives in Stourbridge, said she regularly uses the 0.8 mile service that runs between Stourbridge Town Centre to Stourbridge Junction and lays claim to being Europe's shortest branch line.

But the grandmother was given a shock when rail staff approached her to let her know the exciting news.

The 80-year-old said: "I use the shuttle regularly and it's a really useful and reliable service. It's wonderful. I can't walk that far and I like to go into town to meet people."

Stations

"I was very surprised to be told I was the five millionth passenger, but I must have made many of those journeys myself, over the years."

Since they began operation in 2009, the award-winning service travels daily between Stourbridge's town and junction railway stations as part of the West Midlands Railway network.

It currently carries around 10,500 passengers per week covering 0.8 miles (1.3 km). Using innovative technology, the shuttle is renowned for providing a high-frequency, environmentally-friendly service as well as it being highly reliable and easy to access.

Mrs Aldred was presented with a gift voucher to shop in Stourbridge as well as a framed certificate and flowers at the celebratory event which took place at Stourbridge Junction Railway Station on platform one.



Jo Aldred became passenger number five million on the Stourbridge Shuttle

Peaky Blinders are on One

BLACK Country Living Museum-filmed drama series Peaky Blinders is making the move from BBC Two to BBC One.

The Bafta-winning show stars Cillian Murphy and Tom Hardy, and its latest run – the fourth series – was BBC Two's most-watched drama of 2017. It attracted an average consolidated audience of 3.3m, almost one million more than the previous series,

the BBC said. The show, set in Birmingham in the aftermath of the First World War, is also one of the top three BBC dramas for 16 to 34-year-olds.

Director of BBC content Charlotte Moore said: "Peaky Blinders is world-class drama at the top of its game and the time has arrived for it to move to the UK's biggest television channel. Steven Knight's epic storytelling is authentic and utterly compelling."

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16 Luck runs out for lottery lie criminal

A CONVICTED money launderer whose family claimed his 123 prize-winning lottery tickets paid for his house has been ordered to repay the cash in three months or go to prison for a further four and-a-half years.

Kashaf Ali Khan, aged 44, from Birmingham, must pay £480,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The action follows his conviction last year when he was jailed for 22 months for two counts of money laundering following a National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation.

At his trial, his father, Malik Abdullah Farooq, said his son bought the house with money he gave him from the 123 prize-winning tickets from the Pakistan lottery.

Luck

But he was rumbled when the NCA employed an expert statistician who said Khan's father's 'good luck' was as likely as winning the UK National Lottery jackpot 40 weeks running.

Khan admitted he used laundered money to pay for his £412,000 house as well as using criminal cash to pay an earlier money laundering conviction.

The hearing at Birmingham Crown Court was told how Khan benefited from £673,857.89 of criminal cash. This was the value of his Prospect Lane home and criminal money he used to repay a previous confiscation order back in 2010.

Adam Warnock, NCA Commander, said: "This order should send a clear message that we will pursue all criminally obtained assets and prevent lifestyles funded through criminal enterprises. Khan is a career criminal who has benefited significantly from the proceeds of that activity."

Take-off for tower on list



The iconic Elmdon control tower

AN ICONIC airport terminal has been saved after being given protected status by Historic England.

The Elmdon terminal and control tower at Birmingham Airport, which was opened by the Duchess of Kent in 1939, has been given grade II-listed status in recognition of its cultural importance and means it will be protected from demolition in the future.

The building – which is also known as the Art Deco terminal – was widely used until 1984. Since then it has specialised in private flight for wealthy individuals, VIPs and royalty as well as being used as offices for airport staff until its closure earlier this year.

Historic England chief executive Duncan Wilson said: "The list is a treasure trove of special historic places that demonstrates the rich variety of England's history."

"Reaching 400,000 entries is a milestone – it confirms just how important our heritage is and how much deserves protecting for future generations."

Culture Secretary Jeremy Wright said: "This landmark highlights the huge diversity of historic places that we have protected and the integral role heritage plays in our culture."

GP practice is 'outstanding'

A GP practice in Stourbridge has been praised by health inspectors and given the rating 'outstanding'.

Lion Health on Lowndes Road has scored so highly it is now being used as an example to other surgeries on how to improve services.

The rating is a ringing endorsement for the practice which recently merged with Norton Medical Practice and serves 31,000 patients.

Lookers hits a peak in West Midlands leg of a blinding fundraising challenge



In Peaky Blinders gear at Mercedes-Benz Walsall

NATIONAL motor retailer Lookers has completed the West Midlands leg of the biggest charity drive in its history – the Lookers Electric Charge including staff dressing as characters from hit BBC TV drama Peaky Blinders.

The carbon-neutral challenge in aid of motor industry charity Ben will eventually see a relay of electric and hybrid vehicles travel 2,000 miles down the country to destinations including all 154 of the retailer's franchised dealerships, where a range of weird and wonderful fundraising events are being held.

The relay started in Dublin in May and has travelled through Scotland, the North East, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

Report by John Corser

and has now finished its West Midlands leg. Staff have been hard at work raising money by holding bake sales and raffles, as well as driving their electric vehicles dressed as everything from Batman and Robin in Mercedes-Benz Wulverhampton to Hawaiian Hula Girls at Stafford's Knights BMW and MINI Stafford.

Mercedes-Benz Walsall played host to members of the Shelby crime family from Peaky Blinders, the Birmingham-based period drama which is partly filmed at the Black Country Living Museum.

Lookers chief executive Andy Bruce said: "The effort that everyone has put in to make this fund-raising project such a huge success has been really heart-warming."

"Ben is a fantastic charity that does so much to support those people in the motor industry that are in need, so it's great to be able to give back in this way."

Zara Ross, chief executive at Ben, said: "We have been following the Lookers Electric Charge since it started in May and have been blown away by how much they've embraced the challenge."

"It's certainly given us more than a few laughs."

Groups hope they can buy church which faces closure

Report by Alex Ross

THREE community groups in Tipton have expressed an interest in buying a church which faces closure.

The Grade II-listed St Martin and St Paul Church will close under a current application from the Diocese of Lichfield.

The proposal to shut the Gothic church built in 1837 is down to a lack of resources for building maintenance. However, Tipton Community Association, Tipton Civic Society and St Paul's Community Association have contacted the diocese about buying the church.

Civic Society chairman Keith Hodgkins said the joint venture could solve a problem faced by all three groups, with their limited premises. He said: "There are two reasons behind this – to find a new use for the building; if it is closing we do not want to see it deteriorate and eventually disappear."

"Then there is a need for large performance space for both the Tipton Community Association and St Paul's Community Association. Both have bases which are now too small for their needs."

He added: "What we have done is make an expression of interest that we would be interested in acquiring the building. We now wait to hear back from the diocese."

Tipton Community Association is based at Brook Street Community Centre, while St Paul's Community Association is located in Brick Kiln Street.

Exhibitions

Mr Hodgkins said the church, which already has its permanent pews removed, could provide a space for musical shows and plays as well as exhibitions and meetings.

He said he hoped the church could still be used for religious services: "So many people have memories of the church, it'd be a real shame for it to go. We, as a community, believe we can secure its future."

Closure of the church was first raised three years after the retirement of the incumbent. Then, in the same year, it was discussed at a public meeting. An interim minister was appointed to help with the potential closure.

Under the plans, the congregation will be moved to St Matthews Church, also in Tipton.

A spokesman for the diocese said: "There are plans to close St Martin and St Paul in Tipton as part of a wider proposal to reorganise local parishes."

"Provision has been made for worshippers from St Martin and St Paul to use the hall at nearby St John's Church as a meeting place for worship."

The consultation on the church closure ends on September 24.

When Sally met Andy for latest comedy



The husband and wife acting team of Sally and Andy Worley as married couple Barry and Gen in the forthcoming comedy Conjugal Rites

THE stage will be home from home for one couple with Oldbury Rep's latest production, as the married pair will take the leading roles in the popular comedy Conjugal Rites, by Roger Hall, to kick off the new season.

Sally and Andy Worley are bravely taking their life experiences onto stage with them, in the Rep's latest production, to probe the agony and the ecstasy of that somewhat dwindling institution – marriage.

Barry, a dentist, and his wife Gen are in bed when the comedy begins. They are about to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary and we see the couple discussing their marriage

and life together. Barry, for example, has difficulty accepting that Gen wants to have a career and, indeed, an identity of her own. It is clear that a major shift has occurred in the power balance between the two of them, since Gen has studied for a law degree in later life, and has recently become a solicitor.

She wants to be more than merely Mrs Barry and many unexpected revelations are uncovered during the course of the play. It was first performed at the Watford Palace Theatre on 24 January 1991. It starred Nicky Henson and Gwen Taylor. The production runs from Saturday September 8-15. Performances start

at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm and every night of the production from 7pm. Tickets are priced at £11.00 with the usual concessions at £10.00 with a special price on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £9 (no concessions). The box office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761, or book online at www.oldburyrep.org.

Meanwhile, the Rep's film screenings return with The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, starring Tom Courtney on September 28. All tickets are still just £4 and the performance starts at 7.30pm

House of Fraser set to announce store closures

BEATTIES owner House of Fraser is set to announce a spate of store closures, with new owner Mike Ashley blaming 'greedy landlords' for potentially hundreds of job losses.

The Sports Direct tycoon, who recently bought the department store chain out of administration for £90 million, has been in tense talks with landlords over rents in recent weeks.

Those negotiations have resulted in around seven House of Frasers being saved from clo-

sure, including in Oxford Street, Telford and Plymouth. But talks are continuing with the landlords of stores such as Beatties in Wolverhampton.

Mr Ashley's property team are deep in talks with the owners the Beatties site.

The building was bought from House of Fraser for £47 million after the department chain bought the Beatties chain in 2015. It has subsequently passed through the hands of sev-

eral owners. The tracksuit billionaire has now turned up the heat after warning on Tuesday that 'time is running out' for the remainder of the 59-store estate.

A spokesman for House of Fraser said: "Some landlords are being very collaborative in order to give us a chance at turning the business around, giving House of Fraser a lifeline and saving hundreds of jobs."

"However, some greedy landlords would

rather see the stores close than help save the jobs of hundreds of people."

"We will continue to try and convince these landlords but ultimately time is running out. Some closures will be announced."

It is understood that landlords are reluctant to agree to the low rents Mr Ashley is demanding. Mr Ashley, who also owns Newcastle United, has pledged to save around 47 of House of Fraser's 59 outlets since buying the chain.

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The original 'skipper' Bill Williams with youngsters during the 1977 camp



Boys take part in a sack race during a sports day in 1983



This is the life – youngsters eating a meal around an open fire in 1959



Alan's first book, The Longmynd Adventure Camp and Me

Holiday in hills which helped lads achieve a better Mynd-set for life

FIRST came the adventure in the hills, then came the thank you letters.

The young lads from underprivileged backgrounds in Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and the Black Country had never seen anything like it.

Plonked in tents in the shadow of the Long Mynd in the Shropshire Hills, they washed in a brook, sang round a camp fire, roamed the countryside, played games, and generally enjoyed the fresh air. This was the Longmynd Adventure Camp, which this year is celebrating its diamond anniversary.

The late Bill Williams was the Shropshire country policeman who started it all, with his idea of giving a camping holiday for un-

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

derprivileged boys from the urban areas of the West Midlands. It linked up with a holiday scheme run by the then-Women's Voluntary Service.

"Dear Mr Bill Williams, I'm so glad you had invited me to stay at the camp for 10 days. Thank you for the food that we had. Will you write back to say that we did see a ghost, because my mum doesn't believe me," wrote Andrew Buxton, of Shirley, Solihull.

"Dear Skipper, I hope you are feeling well. Thank you for the beautiful holiday that you gave me and for the songs that you learned me," wrote Clive Pearce.

And another letter, from a helper: "Dear Sir, As you can see

by the above address (Her Majesty's Prison, The Dana, Shrewsbury) things have changed for me since our last meeting . . . I will always remember all the great songs we sang, especially your daughter Debbie's favourite, There's A Worm At The Bottom of the Garden. Brilliant! I am sorry for letting you down Mr Williams."

Bill was from a tough background himself. He was brought up in a two-up two-down terrace house in Wellington. With no water supply or bathroom, they had a tin bath, and the toilets were earth closets at the top of the yard. He was only five when his father died, leaving his mother struggling to feed and clothe the family on a widow's pension.

In the first camp some boys stayed in tents in the garden of his police house at Wistanstow,

near Craven Arms, in 1958, which gave him the idea to run a venture which would give holidays to young boys who had never had one. Thanks to helpful farmers, from then on annual camps were held at a number of different locations in the shadow of the Long Mynd. At the time, Alan Scriven was a five-year-old living in poverty in a single-parent family at Fifth Avenue in Low Hill, Wolverhampton. When he first went to the camp in 1965 it was to change his life – so much so that he was to follow Bill as its 'Skipper' and the man known as 'Scriv' was to be awarded the MBE for his 33 years' involvement.

Alan, who worked for a time as a traffic manager, wrote a book detailing the story of the camp, but has now penned a follow-up, called More From The Longmynd

Adventure Camp and Me. There was, incidentally, a girls' camp started around the late 60s which Alan says did not stand the test of time for various reasons, 'one of them being the unsatisfactory behaviour of the young ladies – bless them'.

Some of those from Bill and Alan's times are now planning a 60th anniversary celebration.

Alan, who lives in Moseley, Wolverhampton, writes: "The Longmynd Adventure Camp changed a lot of people's lives, not just the lads who were lucky enough to be selected. There were many kind souls who came along at different parts of the camp's life who willingly offered whatever they could to help the lads enjoy the experience." Alan's book is published by Heddon Publishing at www.heddonpublishing.com

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Legendary Hoy rides into venue

Olympic legend Sir Chris Hoy rides into Birmingham to talk about his new book and his incredible career in cycling.

One of Great Britain's most successful Olympic athletes of all time, the six-time gold medalist was voted 2008 BBC Sports Personality of the Year, and was knighted in 2009. In 2016 he added to his record list of achievements when he finished the Le Mans 24 Hours race on his debut.

Sir Chris's new book, *How to Ride Bike* is a compelling guide to becoming a fitter and faster cyclist, and he takes the stage at Birmingham's Town Hall on September 18, from 7.30pm, to give the low-down.

Tickets start at £18. See boxoffice@thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 4949.

Meanwhile, broadcaster Danny Baker is embarking on a series of 'one-night stands', with a stop-off in Birmingham included.

Good Time Charlie's Back comes after Baker successfully took *Cradle to Grave* out on the road, after which he vowed to never tour again. A dozen one-off shows were agreed instead and he will be at the Town Hall on September 17, from 7.30pm. Tickets are £22.50.

Adam Henson will take the Town Hall stage to share stories about his life, career and the running of the Costwold Farm Park on September 6, from 7pm.

The BBC Countryfile presenter will also give his thoughts on British Agriculture. Henson will answer audience questions and sign books. Tickets start at £20.50

La fille mal gardée cast



Stage is set for ballet

THE curtain will rise on Birmingham Royal Ballet's interpretation of Frederick Ashton's *La fille mal gardée* (The wayward girl) next month.

Ashton's Royal Ballet production began in 1959 when the British choreographer created a new version for the Royal Ballet of London.

The full-length ballet is an engaging story and has remained a firm family favourite.

It centres on country beauty Lise, who, when she falls in love with farm lad Colas, is

about to upset the apple cart. Her mother, widow Simone, has her own ideas about who her daughter should marry. Enter Thomas, a pompous and wealthy vineyard owner, and Alain, his rich son – as good-looking as a potato and smart as a turnip as well as the proud possessor of two left feet.

So Lise has a choice to make a choice – the a loaded country bumpkin or penniless, hunky farmhand? Of course, there's no contest, but Simone has other ideas. Heels are dug in and sparks fly, as a mother-daughter battle of wills

ensues. *La fille mal gardée* mixes spectacular classical ballet with slick comedy, a clog-dancing dame and a super-cute pony.

It runs at the Birmingham Hippodrome from September 26 to 29, at 7.30pm, each night, with a Thursday matinee at 2pm and a pre-performance talk on the Friday from 6.30pm. The final day will feature a touch tour at 10.30am, a class on stage at 11.45am, an audience open day at noon and an audio description matinee starting at 2.30pm. Tickets start at £16.

Egg-citing arena tour announced

Cirque du Soleil has announced a brand-new UK arena tour, OVO, and will perform in Birmingham in October.

For its UK debut in London in January, OVO officially became the highest-selling Cirque du Soleil performance run to visit the city. The tour comes to the Arena Birmingham stage from October 3-8.

The cast comprises 50 performing artists from 17 countries specialising in acrobatic acts. Among them is 'Black Spider', aka Alanna Baker from the United Kingdom, a gymnastics European champion in 2011 and a bronze medalist at the World Championships in 2012. Alanna, who has been training since the age of five, has travelled around the world with OVO and is now set for a return home.

Having thrilled more than five million people worldwide since it premiered in Montreal in 2009 as a Big Top show, OVO – Portuguese for egg – offers the same captivating production but on a larger scale.

OVO is a headlong rush into a colourful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement. When a mysterious egg appears in their midst, the insects are awestruck and intensely curious about this iconic object that represents the enigma and cycles of their lives.

Tickets on sale now via the Cirque du Soleil website or at www.livenation.co.uk



'CONJUGAL RITES'

by Roger Hall

8th- 15th September 2018

Barry, a dentist, and his wife Gen are in bed when this comedy begins. They are about to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary and we see the couple discussing their marriage, family and work.

It is clear that their lives have changed over the years and many shocking revelations are uncovered!

Films at Oldbury Rep on the 'Screen on the Green'

Our New Season of special screenings will begin with 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society', starring Tom Courtney on 28th September. All tickets still just £4.00 the performance starts at 7.30pm

Play prices Mon-Tue. Special price £9.00 Wed-Sat £11.00 (concessions £10.00)

FREE adjacent car park (CCTV) Lounge, Bar, Facilities for the disabled | **Now booking! Box Office 0121 552 2761** Box Office open Monday evening from 7.30pm, Friday evening prior to main house production and the night of the production at 7.00pm Spring Walk, Langley B69 4SP Online bookings now available at our website: www.oldburyrep.org

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Oldbury Rep Come and Join Us



OldburyREP is Sandwell's only purpose built theatre, providing a variety of productions which have earned it a reputation for quality and value.

We are always happy to receive new members with or without experience in whatever capacity; acting, backstage lighting and sound, props, wardrobe or staffing our front of house, box office and

bar. Your offers of assistance in any area will be gratefully appreciated. We do not have a youth theatre at the present time and we usually recruit from 16 years upwards. We are a voluntary organisation and cannot provide paid employment. Membership costs just £10 for twelve months and gives you reduced ticket prices to see our shows. Monday evening is our 'club

night' and the bar is normally open from 9.15pm and we hope that you will come down and share a drink and a chat with other members.

Why not come along to one of our New Members evenings and have a look at what we do behind the scenes. Evenings will be held on Mondays at 8.30pm on the following dates 17/9/18 & 12/11/18 or contact us at admin@oldburyrep.org

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High standard of food and ales

The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection. "Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



Musical fans from across the region are rubbing their hands together for a musical extravaganza with Live Entertainment Friday and Saturday Night.

The New Wellington in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, is not only treating its patrons to great entertainment it is also a great place to eat, drink and socialise.

Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12 noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm. With Kids eating Free throughout the school holidays. T's & C's apply

For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night, So why not come down and have a sing along!!

New to 2018 - 9 newly refurbished rooms for accommodation, so also now offer B&B at very competitive prices.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Pop out for rollercoaster ride through the decades



Stars G and Kayla

Pop Music comes to the theatre, in the form of a play described as an emotionally contagious rollercoaster.

From Bruntwood Prize winner Anna Jordan, Pop Music is performed at the REP Birmingham from September 12 to 22 at 8pm most nights. The Monday, September 17 show starts at 7pm and there's a 2.30pm matinee on Thursday, September 20.

Tickets start from £10. Visit <https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/pop-music.html>

G and Kayla's lives are a mess but they're determined to 'Have It Large'. Full of adrenaline and cheap Prosecco, the audience can follow them on an epic journey through 30 years of pop.

Can the DJ save them as they become Dancing Queens, reliving their Teenage Dream, Staying Out For The Summer and spicing up their lives? Pop makes promises it can't keep, and soon they'll discover they have more in common than their taste in tunes.

With an epic soundtrack featuring three decades of pop, expect Beyoncé, Spice Girls, Michael Jackson and more, as G and Kayla talk, twerk, drink and dance their way through the night.

All performances feature British Sign Language and captioning.

If Joe Lycett you should see him on home soil

Birmingham comic Joe Lycett is back on home soil for two upcoming dates during his 2018 tour.

Following 'If Joe Lycett Then You Should've Put a Ring On It' and 'That's the Way A-Ha A-Ha', Joe Lycett, the 30-year-old Hall Green-born funnyman is now on a 48-date tour called 'I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett'.

In 2012, his debut stand-up show 'Some Lycett Hot' was nominated for the Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards.

The comedian, who has featured on Live At The Apollo, 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown, QI and The Royal Variety Performance, and was a contestant on the fourth series of

Taskmaster, will be sharing jokes, paintings and some of the pathetic internet trolling he's been up to recently.

He performs at a sold-out Dudley Town Hall on September 7, from 8pm and at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham on November 12, 8pm. Tickets are £23.

The laughs continue with Comedy at the Cornbow, hosted by Dudley's Wayne Beese, described by Lycett as 'one of the best comperes I have ever had the pleasure of working with'.

Canadian tour-de-force Tom Stone and award-winning Alun Cochrane and Jo Enright feature on the bill at the Cornbow Hall, in Hagley Street, Halesowen on September 15.

Early bird tickets are £15 at www.ticketsource.co.uk/comedycornbow



Birmingham comic Joe Lycett



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War Horse runs again at the Hippodrome

Following eight record-breaking years in London's West End, the National Theatre's acclaimed production of War Horse returns to Birmingham Hippodrome later this year.

War Horse has been performed to more than seven million people in 11 countries and was last in Birmingham five years ago. It is being staged from October 10 to November 3.

Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, it tells of Albert, young Joey's beloved horse, who, at the outbreak of the First World War, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. Soon, he is caught up in enemy fire and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before ending up in No Man's Land. Albert, still on his parents' farm in Devon, cannot forget Joey, and although too young to enlist, embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home.

At the heart of the moving drama are astonishing life-sized horses.

Tickets start from £29.50. See birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Arena date on Horizon for steel city rockers

Bring Me The Horizon will play Birmingham later this year.

The announcement comes after the quintet released the debut single Mantra from their upcoming sixth studio album, Amo.

The Sheffield rockers formed in 2004, fronted by Drop Dead owner Oliver Sykes. They released their debut album Count Your Blessings in 2006, which featured songs such as For Stevie Wonder's Eyes Only and Pray for Plagues.

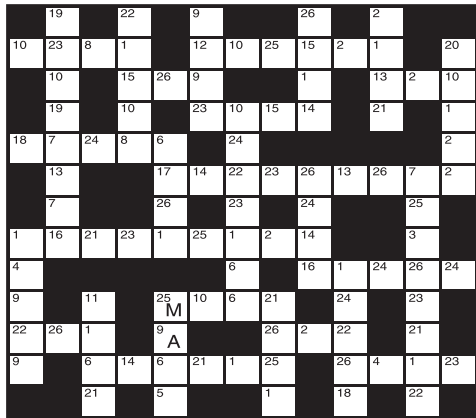
The band began to break away from their deathcore sound with follow-up release Suicide Season in 2008, which was a creative, critical and commercial turning point for the band.

Their major label debut, Sempiternal, was released in 2013 and achieved gold certification in Australia and silver in the United Kingdom.

Bring Me The Horizon have received four Kerrang! Awards, including two for Best British Band and one for Best Live Band. The group will play Arena Birmingham on November 23.

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	P	H	L	Y	V	D	A	W	R	K	B	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	E	T	G	X	M	C	Z	U	O	Q	F	N

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

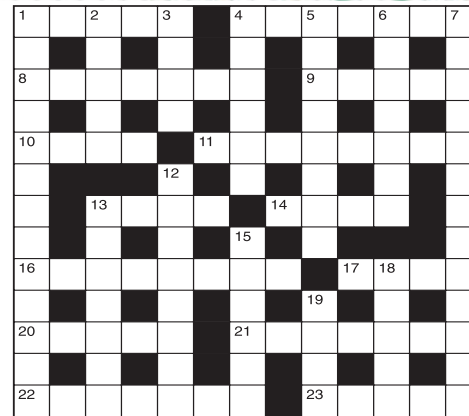
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Get to stretch of river (5)
- 500 playing the piano, the asses! (7)
- Coarser shopkeeper, we hear (7)
- Serious accent (5)
- With strings attached? (4)
- Again rigid limit (8)
- Get rid of hut (4)
- Scold for speed (4)
- To rig hut thoroughly perhaps (8)
- Clean warhead with fire residue (4)
- Assign everybody to return (5)
- Indian Ocean island for a get-together again? (7)
- Finish smaller, though going on for ever (7)
- Newspapers feel the squeeze? (5)

Down

- Correct until engagement, without any backlog at all (5,2,2,4)
- Sailor takes poem home (5)
- Does he have a great crowd to entertain? (4)
- Obscure coffer in cavern (6)
- Drink to sleep in? (5-3)
- Inspect axe sent up to pit (7)
- 000s of sugary endearments? (5,8)
- Disparage command to avoid greatness? (8)
- Paid the account and stayed there permanently (7)
- Suitable wear for putting spirits down? (6)
- A team apart (5)
- Is it taken easily by camel-riders? (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Surpass (5)
- Sorrow (7)
- Part-exchange (5-2)
- In competition (5)
- Drill (4)
- View (8)
- Appendage (4)
- Price (4)
- Innocuous (8)
- Basin (4)
- Correct (5)
- Shreds (7)
- Thick (5)

Down

- Institution (13)
- Professorship (5)
- Sediment (4)
- Divers (6)
- Compartment (8)
- Clear (7)
- Forswear alcohol (4,3,6)
- Drive out (8)
- Flood (7)
- Estimate (6)
- Seas (5)
- Old (4)

Sudoku

		6				9		
	4	1	2		5		3	
	5			9			8	
1	6						4	7
			6		3			5
7	2		1				9	8
	9			1			2	
	1		4		8		6	
		4				8	7	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	1	2	8	6	3	5	7
2	5	8	9	3	7	1	4	6
6	3	7	5	4	1	8	9	2
7	2	3	4	9	5	6	8	1
8	1	5	3	6	2	9	7	4
9	6	4	1	7	8	2	3	5
3	4	2	7	1	9	5	6	8
5	7	6	8	2	3	4	1	9
1	8	9	6	5	4	7	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Pill-boxes; 8 Lime; 9 Compasses; 10 Patron; 11 Sleep; 14 Adorn; 15 Drop; 16 Treat; 18 Teal; 20 Again; 21 Local; 24 Bushel; 25 Corvettes; 26 Arms; 27 Foreshore.
Down: 1 Elephants; 2 Emotional; 4 Iron; 5 Lapel; 6 Ousted; 7 Even; 9 Count; 11 Shell; 12 Preachers; 13 Spineless; 17 Tagus; 19 Louvre; 22 Aitch; 23 Go to; 24 Bear. QUICK - Across: 3 Impromptu; 8 Pond; 9 Originate; 10 Exempt; 11 Steer; 14 Elver; 15 Dawn; 16 Aloof; 18 Anew; 20 Evoke; 21 Wrath; 24 Beaten; 25 Contender; 26 Turf; 27 Refectory.
Down: 1 Ephemeral; 2 Interview; 4 Mart; 5 Flight; 6 Minded; 7 Tote; 9 Opera; 11 Sloth; 12 Raconteur; 13 Indemnify; 17 Fewer; 19 Writhe; 22 Tenet; 23 Poke; 24 Bear.

Quiz

- Where is the annual British Showjumping Derby held?
- Which great circle may be terrestrial or celestial?
- In which US state is the Corning Museum of Glass, reputedly the world's finest collection?
- Who directed The Wild Bunch in 1969?
- For which motor racing team did Nigel Mansell drive (briefly) in 1995?
- Which book of stories inspired Baden Powell to form the Wolf Cub division of the Boy Scout movement?
- Which astronomical feature may be spiral, barred or elliptical?
- What type of trader's traditional sign is three gold balls?
- Which Christian festival commemorates the coming of the Magi?
- What is a skua?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Gustave Flaubert; 2 Chloroform; 3 South Africa; 4 Universities; 5 Privet; 6 Rabbit; 7 Camille Saint-Saens; 8 Harpo; 9 Eucalyptus; 10 Gerald Durrell.

Niner: FATHERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

825736
543796
386716

gives flowers,
gives more flowers,
gives bunches of flowers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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CHOICE



Robbie Williams

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)
New series. The search for the next music superstar gets under way as the talent contest returns. Heralding the start of a new era for the entertainment show, Robbie Williams, his wife Ayda and Louis Tomlinson join music mogul Simon Cowell on the brand new judging panel. Returning as host is Dermot O'Leary, who will be on hand to provide contestants with a word of advice - or a much-needed hug - as they perform in front of the judges. Also returning are the arena auditions at the SSE Arena, Wembley, with the hopefuls performing in front of a live audience.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League - Brussels and Zurich Highlights. **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. (2011) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp.
7.35 Impossible Celebrities. The Rev Kate Bottley is among the 18 celebrities playing for charity in the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win money, with a single "impossible" answer knocking them out.
8.25 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge four more teams of celebrity contestants to take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. This time, Lucy Porter teams up with Rob Deering, and Rachel Johnson joins forces with her father Stanley. John Shuttleworth unites with Dave Gorman, and Carol McGiffin throws her lot in with Charlotte Crosby. (R)
9.10 Casually. Iain struggles to make a speech at Sam's funeral, only for Dylan to stop him mid-sentence and publicly blame him for her death. Elsewhere, Ethan treats a pedestrian who has been hit by a motorbike, while Alicia looks after her son, who is in shock. Blake and Jacob bond over their shared feelings for Sam.
10.00 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Liverpool at the King Power Stadium and Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor.
11.45 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to preview the new NFL season, with the pundits offering their thoughts and predictions on the next six months.
12.15 Film: Fight Night. (2011) A teenager realises his neighbour is a vampire, and seeks the aid of a Las Vegas magician in slaying him. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin, Colin Farrell and David Tennant. **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Top Class. (R) **7.10** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.40** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. (R) **8.10** The Dengineers. (R) **8.40** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.10** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.40** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **10.00** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Scrappers - Back in the Yard. (R) **3.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.50** A Passage to Britain. (R) **6.50 Proms Extra.** Katie Derham presents the final episode of 2018. Tonight's show has a double helping of Bernstein, with a look at On the Town and The Age of Anxiety. Plus, Simon Rattle conducting Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges and András Schiff playing Bach. Last in the series.
7.30 Eric & Ernie. Drama charting the early years of one of Britain's best comedy double acts, focusing on the influence of Eric Morecambe's mother Sadie (Victoria Wood). A chance meeting on the children's variety circuit sees the start of an unlikely friendship and Eric soon becomes the funnymon to Ernie Wise's "feed". But as they grow older, the duo struggle to make their way in mainstream entertainment with a few dubious tours and an ill-advised TV series that has the critics punning for them. Daniel Rigby and Bryan Dick star as Eric and Ernie, with Jim Moir (better known to comedy fans as Vic Reeves) and Reece Shearsmith as their fathers. (R)
9.00 Morecambe and Wise in Pieces: The Sketches. Penelope Keith presents another edition of the occasional series, this time travelling the archives for the best of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise's bite-sized routines from their shows. (R)
10.00 Film: Gone Girl. (2014) A man reports his wife's disappearance, only to end up under media scrutiny and accused of murder. David Fincher's crime thriller, with Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike.
12.20 Film: Mystery Road. (2013) Murder mystery, with Aaron Pedersen and Hugo Weaving. **2.15** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.15** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.30** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!s Shiniest Showdown Ever. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoo Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.35** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **12.00** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.05** 5:10k Holiday Home. (R) **1.35** ITV News: Weather. **1.45** Catchphrase. (R) **2.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **3.30** The Chase. (R) **4.30** WOS Wrestling. **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather.
6.00 Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Una Foden, Kate Silverton and Kriss Akabusi spill the beans about their famous parents. Last in the series.
7.00 Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity edition of the game show, asking Rob Beckett, Ruth Jones and Jordan Banjo to 'see it and say it' as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000 for their chosen charity.
8.00 The X Factor. New series. The search for the next music superstar gets under way, featuring a brand new judging panel of Robbie and Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell.
9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The host returns for another helping of celebrity chat. With guests Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish, Mel Giedroyc, Rob Beckett, Dave Bautista and Jess Glynne.
10.20 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 Film: Two Weeks Notice. (2002) A lawyer walks out on her job with a self-centred property tycoon, forcing him to pull out all the stops to win her back. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant.
12.25 WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Eternal Glory. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri. **1.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** The People's Vet. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **5.00** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
6.30 Speed with Guy Martin: Classic F1 Special. Guy takes part in his first-ever Formula 1 race as he goes head to head with 2009 world champion Jenson Button around Silverstone Grand Prix circuit. Guy is driving a classic 1983 Williams FW08c, working for six months with the Williams heritage Division to restore it from museum piece to racing condition, and learned how to drive Formula 1 style under the direction of Karun Chandhok, formerly of the Hispania Racing F1 Team, while Jenson takes to the track in a prototype six-wheeled Williams from the 1980s. (R)
8.00 Film: Oblivion. (2013) A repairman is assigned to salvage the remaining resources from Earth, which has been left a devastated wasteland after a war with an alien race. He discovers a human survivor on the surface of the planet, an encounter that exposes secrets from the past that threaten the future of the human race. Sci-fi adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.
10.15 Film: Exodus: Gods and Kings. (2014) The adoptive brother of the pharaoh of Egypt tries to free the country's slaves during a series of plagues. Biblical epic, starring Christian Bale and Joel Edgerton.
12.55 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Imran's behaviour towards Misbah begins to improve, and Romeo and Prince are throw another rave. Meanwhile, Sami asks Ellie to travel around the world with him. (R) **3.05** French Collection. (R) **4.00** Village of the Year with Penelope Keith. The winning village from this week's heats is decided. (R) **4.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Valuable items languishing in people's homes. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. Kirstie Allsopp tries her hand at needlecraft at the Great Yorkshire Show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **10.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **3.45** Access. **3.50 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Concluded.
6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! High-court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face some tough decisions when they are given the task of repossessing a house in which a woman is living with two young children. They also pursue a debt of more than £25,000 and visit a tenant in a fashionable London borough who has not paid his rent. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Fourth Test in the five-match series, taking place at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton.
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Brunel's Britain: Master of Bridges. In a two-part series, Rob Bell explores the work of Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, exploring his complex personality as well as his prolific achievements. In the opening episode, Rob examines Brunel's first major project, the Thames Tunnel, before he went on to secure the post of official engineer to the proposed Great Western Railway. (R)
9.00 How the Victorians Built Britain. New series. How Britain was transformed during the Victorian era, including surprising stories behind iconic landmarks and the hidden heroes behind epic constructions.
10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
11.05 Lip Sync Battle US: Michael Jackson Special. Chrissy Teigen and LL Cool J invite Hailee Steinfeld, Taraji P Henson, Neil Patrick Harris and Laverne Cox to mimic the moves of Michael Jackson.
12.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham: Rise of the Villains. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet **8.00** Lost Land of the Tiger **9.00** The Plague **10.45** Reading Festival 2018: The Best Bits **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.45** Jimi Hendrix: The Road to Woodstock **1.45** Secrets of Our Living Planet **2.45** Lost Land of the Tiger **3.45** Close
ITV2
12.50 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.25** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.30** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **5.20** Film: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983) **8.00** Film: Rock of Ages (2012) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Rock of Ages (2012) **10.25** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Film: Van Helsing (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Van Helsing (2004) **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
3.05 Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.00 Dirtquake VII **1.00** Storage Wars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. **4.00** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **5.55** Mr Bean **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Tremors (1990) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Tremors (1990) **11.05** Film: Crank (2006) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Crank (2006) **12.50** Better Late Than Never **1.45** Minder **2.35** Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Film: Tooth Fairy (2010) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.20** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Tattoo Fixers **2.25** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **4.30** Young & Hungry
Film4
1.00 Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.05** Titanic (1997) **6.50** Last Vegas (2013) **9.00** Red (2010) **11.15** Dracula Untold (2014) **1.05** Princess Mononoke (1997) **3.50** Close

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Violin master André Rieu has announced a new UK 2018 tour including a date at the Echo Arena in Liverpool! See the 'King of Waltz' perform with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra where he will play songs from his repertoire alongside Christmas carols.
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CHOICE



Olivia Cooke

Vanity Fair (ITV, 9pm)
New series. Adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel about an amoral woman who cunningly manipulates her way to the top of Georgian high society, while the Napoleonic wars rage around her. Starring Olivia Cooke and Claudia Jessie, with Michael Palin appearing as Thackeray himself. Charlie Rowe, Johnny Flynn, Simon Russell Beale, Tom Bateman, Suranne Jones, Robert Pugh, David Fynn, Claire Skinner, Martin Clunes, Siena Kelly, Kerry Gilbert, Grace Schneider, Richie Campbell, Ben Fox, Rebecca Brewer, Bob Goody, Pieter Lawman, Ellen Attwell, Sarah Williams, Alice Kerrigan, Jenna Brook and Daniel Croucher also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Sunday Morning Live. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Still Open All Hours. (R) **1.45** Hold the Sunset. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Fake or Fortune? (R) **4.50** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile**. Steve Brown presents a guide to the Isle of Sheppey, a part of the country particularly close to his heart. He visits a family-run farm that is also a designated nature reserve, as well as going in search of wildlife, from wading birds in the wetlands to livestock on the saltmarsh. Plus, a selection of reports from the archives exploring Britain's marshlands. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the origins of two paintings by unknown artists dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, which unusually for the period, depict black subjects. One is a portrait of Dido Belle, a famous former slave adopted into an aristocratic English family in the 1760s, while the other depicts two children against a tropical landscape, and is believed to have been painted as a protest against the slave trade. **9.00** **Bodyguard**. Julia's counter-terrorism bill draws even closer to becoming law while London is left reeling from the recent attacks. However, her ambitions stir up political rivalries, leaving David under even greater pressure to ensure her safety. The police are marginalised from the investigation into the terrorist attacks, which is placed under the control of the security service, and David is left unsure who to trust as his superiors put pressure on him to provide them with information on Julia's activities. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action. **11.35** **Supermarket Shopping Secrets**. (R) **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.00** Wastemen. (R) **3.00** Equestrian: Burghley Horse Trials. **5.10** Tribes, Predators & Me. (R) **6.10** **Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom**. (1984) The intrepid archaeologist, with his young sidekick and a nightclub singer in tow, is stranded in India, where he takes on a mission to recover magical sacred stones from the hands of an evil cult engaged in human sacrifice and child slavery. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, starring Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw, Ke Huy Quan and Amrish Puri. **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. Self-made millionaires Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Touker Suleyman, Jenny Campbell and Tej Lalvani assess the profit-making potential of more would-be entrepreneurs' ideas, including a doctor who has invented a range of convertible clothing, a team of university friends with an online art platform, and a pair of hairdressers with a colour wash shampoo business. **9.00** **Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon**. The teams begin a 900 kilometre journey across Cambodia that takes three days to complete. Along the way, they drop in a market where insects and spiders can be bought as snacks and visit sites linked to the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime, including the S21 prison and the notorious Killing Fields. Fatigue and ill health starts to take its toll as they cross the border into Vietnam. **10.00** **Millionaires' Ex-Wives Club**. A glimpse into the world of high-profile divorce cases for the super rich, following two women as they battle with their former husbands for a share of their fortunes. (R) **11.00** **Film: Kinky Boots**. (2005) A man inherits a struggling shoe factory and finds salvation for his business in a drag art's need for custom footwear. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. **12.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Holby City. (R) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.15** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.30** NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Scrambled! Sketch Show. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Sunday. **9.25** The X Factor. (R) **10.35** WOS Wrestling. (R) **11.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **12.35** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **1.05** ITV News: Weather. **1.20** **Film: The LEGO Movie**. (2014) Animated comedy, with the voice of Chris Pratt. **3.15** Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes**. Paul meets 13-year-old Amelie, who has been coming to the hospital since she was a baby, and eight-month-old Alexander, who was born profoundly deaf. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **7.00** **5 Gold Rings**. New series. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants answer visual questions. The first episode features sisters-in-law competing against a married couple. **8.00** **The X Factor**. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to win a recording contract. **9.00** **Vanity Fair**. New series. Adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel about an amoral woman's ascent through Georgian high society. Starring Olivia Cooke. **10.05** **The Imitation Game**. New series. Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Luke Kempner and Jess Robinson taking on impressions-based challenges. **10.45** ITV News: Weather. **11.05** **Our Everest Challenge: With Ben Fogle and Victoria Pendleton**. Documentary following broadcaster and adventurer Ben Fogle as he faces the challenge of a lifetime, alongside Olympic gold medalist Victoria Pendleton, to scale Mount Everest. (R) **12.05** Monster Carp. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motorsport: Caterham. **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Para Athletics: European Championships. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Peng Life. (R) **2.00** **Film: Hulk**. (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Eric Bana. **4.40** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **6.00** **Extreme Cake Makers**. New series. A baker is challenged to make a flamingo-shaped cake with edible feathers made of paper, while a former helicopter pilot creates edible teddy bears for Armed Forces Day, hand-carved from 11 kilos of chocolate cake and covered in 25 kilos of fondant. A third baker makes an elegant three tier floral wedding cake made from pistachio, damson and rose flavoured sponge. **6.25** **Channel 4 News**. **6.45** **Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights**. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the 14th round of the season, which took place at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza. Lewis Hamilton was aiming to equal Michael Schumacher's record of five victories in this race and gain an edge in his championship battle with Sebastian Vettel in the process. **9.00** **Film: Jack Reacher: Never Go Back**. (2016) Premiere. When the commander of his old military unit is arrested on trumped-up spy charges, vigilante Jack Reacher investigates. Action sequel, starring Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders and Danika Yarosh. **11.20** **Film: A Bigger Splash**. (2015) A rock star recovering from surgery finds her peaceful Mediterranean retreat disrupted by the arrival of a former lover. Drama, starring Tilda Swinton and Ralph Fiennes. **1.35** 60 Days in Jail. (R) **2.25** The Supervet. A 10-month-old golden retriever undergoes groundbreaking treatment. (R) **3.20** French Collection. Three rivals upcycle items from a French market before selling them in Brighton. (R) **4.15** Village of the Year with Penelope Keith. The judges visit Rutland, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Co Derry. (R) **5.10** The Posh Frock Shop. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Bao Bei. (R) **6.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.50** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Rusty Rivets. **7.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **8.45** Pirata & Capitano. **9.00** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.15** Floogals. (R) **9.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **10.40** Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.35** Bad Tenants. Rogue Landlords. (R) **3.30** Bad Tenants. Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **6.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents in central London try to recover almost £1,900 owed in parking fines, while officers Stewart and Vic chase over £2,200 owed by a scrap yard owner. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5**. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the Fourth Test in the five-match series, taking place at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. **7.55** **5 News Weekend**. **8.00** **That's So 1980**. An entertaining look back at events of 1980, a year politics met sport when the USA boycotted the Moscow Olympics. There was a taste of terrorist acts to come when the Iranian embassy in London was besieged prior to being stormed by the SAS in front of a live TV audience. Plus, Lady Diana Spencer emerged as a favourite of the paparazzi, B-movie actor Ronald Reagan beat Jimmy Carter in the US presidential election and prime minister Margaret Thatcher delivered her "The lady's not for turning" speech. New developments in consumer technology saw the release of Pac-Man and the UK launch of the Sony Walkman. (R) **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother**. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt. **10.00** **Most Shocking Moments in Pop**. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham: Rise of the Villains. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2018 **8.30** The Gardeners of Kabul **9.00** Hull's Headscart Heroes **10.00** The Last Testament of Lilian Billocka **10.30** France: The Wild Side: Natural World **11.30** Storyville: The Golden Age of Circus - The Show of Shows **12.45** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **1.45** Going Goin' Gone: Nick Broomfield's Disappearing Britain **2.45** The No.5 War **3.40** Close
ITV2
12.40 Ninja Warrior UK **1.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.45** The X Factor **4.05** **Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (2005) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** **Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (2005) **6.20** **Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2** (2014) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** **Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2** (2014) **9.00** **Film: American Pie: Reunion** (2012) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film: American Pie: Reunion** (2012) **11.15** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** Ghosted **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.05 Inspector Morse **3.30** Rosemary & Thyme **5.05** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Les Dawson Forever **11.00** Wire in the Blood **12.25** A Touch of Frost **2.40** Road to Avonlea **4.00** Judge Judy **4.40** George and Mildred **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
3.45 Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** **Film: The Blood of Others** (1982) **10.00** **Film: The Blood of Others** (1982) **11.05** **Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2010) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** **Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2010) **1.10** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.35** Young Sheldon **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **7.10** **Film: Paddington** (2014) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** Fear the Walking Dead **11.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** Krypton **2.25** Fear the Walking Dead **3.10** Hollywoods
Film4
11.00 Rio (2011) **1.00** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.10** Epic (2013) **5.20** The Two Faces of January (2014) **7.15** Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Risen (2016) A Roman officer is charged with investigating reports of Jesus' resurrection in the aftermath of the crucifixion. Biblical drama, starring Joseph Fiennes and Tom Felton. **11.10** Friends with Benefits (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake. **1.20** The Stag (2013) **3.15** Close

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NEW
Causey Farm Road, HALESOWEN£795 pcm+Fees
This semi-detached property is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very desirable location & consists of 2 reception rooms, a sun room leading to a beautiful mature south facing private garden, kitchen, downstairs w.c, extended garage, upstairs is a shower room & 3 good size bedrooms, garage & driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D



Audnam, AMBLECOTE £795 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite. 2 allocated parking space for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. EPC: B



Pedmore Grange, PEDMORE£750 pcm+Fees
An assortment of 2 bedroom apartments in this exclusive development located in Pedmore. Fully refurbished to a high standard within private mature gardens, gated with a driveway & parking, electric storage heaters, 1 bedroom with en-suite & family bathroom. EPC: D



Surfett Hill Road, CRADLEY HEATH£700 pcm+Fees
A semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



Mendip Road, HALESOWEN£695 pcm+Fees
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate at Halesowen/Hayley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, house bathroom with shower off the taps, parking and garage. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



NEW
Watermarque, BIRMINGHAM£650 pcm+Fees
Tastefully presented and well proportioned studio apartment set in the prestigious Watermarque development. This 4th floor property is fully furnished and features living room/bedroom with wardrobe space, storage cupboard, fully equipped kitchen with appliances, large bathroom with shower, space saving double bed, secure access with 2 lifts and no adjoining flats on floor. 24 hour concierge service and free use of the residents gym. EPC: C



NEW
Graingers Lane, CRADLEY HEATH£625 pcm+Fees
A new build terraced property with 1 allocated parking space at the rear, located close to Cradley Heath Train Station and the Town Centre. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge with patio doors leading to a small rear garden, downstairs WC. A property not to be missed! EPC: B



Pedmore Grange, PEDMORE£595 pcm+Fees
An assortment of 1 bedroom apartments in this exclusive development located in Pedmore. Fully refurbished to a high standard within private mature gardens, gated with a driveway & parking, electric storage heaters, 1 double bedroom & family bathroom. EPC: D



Coppice Road, CRADLEY HEATH£585 pcm+Fees
Recently refurbished to a good standard. Ideally located on the Timbertrax Estate for the local primary school. This 2 double bedroom house features 1 reception room, modern kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower, covered storage area to the rear, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



LET
Cameo Drive, AMBLECOTE £575 pcm+Fees
A lovely unfurnished semi detached house set in a quiet cul-de-sac location. Ideal for buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Merry Hill. This house features gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 Bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: C



Beaumont Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH£575 pcm+Fees
● UNDERGOING SOME REDECORATION AND NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT ● This terraced property is conveniently located close to Blackheath Regis Centre and Rowley Regis train station. The house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, lean to, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



NEW
Foxdale Road, BRIERLEY HILL£550 pcm+Fees
Been freshly redecorated and within a 5 minutes drive of Brierley Hill town centre & few minutes more from Merry Hill shopping centre, is this unfurnished semi detached back to back house, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking space, front garden. EPC: D



LET
Mildred Way, ROWLEY REGIS£550 pcm+Fees
A beautifully presented and located in a quiet road, is this unfurnished split level semi detached bungalow, briefly comprising of: 1 gallery bedroom with walk in wardrobe, downstairs bathroom with shower, open plan lounge with newly fitted wooden flooring & fitted kitchen, patio doors leading to rear garden with shed, double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



Wycherley Way, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL£525 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor apartment on a popular development close to Cradley Heath and Old Hill Train Station. Old Hill shops and bus links. Featuring gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine and fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking space. EPC: B



Round Street, NETHERTON£525 pcm+Fees
A lovely re-decorated unfurnished semi detached house. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking, rear garden. Also benefiting from new windows and doors throughout. EPC: D ● ● LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR (MUST BE A HOME OWNER AND WORKING) ● ●



Seedhouse Court, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL£525 pcm+Fees
Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, an unfurnished ground floor apartment features 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D



LET
King Street, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL£525 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This furnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D



Villa Street, AMBLECOTE £500 pcm+Fees
A beautiful ground floor modern apartment which is furnished to suit. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D



NEW PRICE
Whitehall Court, HALESOWEN£499 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with a new cooker and fridge freezer, new flooring in the kitchen, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure gated parking to rear of property. EPC: C



LET
The Breeze, BRIERLEY HILL£425 pcm+Fees
A delightful modern 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment in this convenient position within easy distance of local schools, shops, road and public transport links. Open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom, bathroom with shower (OFF THE BEDROOM). Allocated parking for 1 car. EPC: B



NEW
High Street, LYE/STOURBRIDGE£375 pcm+Fees
In the Centre of Lye which is ideal for buses, shops and Lye Train Station. This spacious 2nd floor apartment has been re-decorated throughout and features a lovely spacious lounge and open plan with the lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: E

PROPERTY



Superb ground floor apartment with two bedrooms enjoys lovely views over canal

A superb ground floor apartment in a lovely setting overlooking the canal, in Wharf Mews, Netherton, is presented to a high standard.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £106,000 with no chain. The property has a spacious lounge with a bay window overlooking

**NETHERTON
£106,000**

the front elevation and canal, and an open plan fitted kitchen with appliances, two double bedrooms, with the master having excellent

en-suite and a main bathroom. The apartment also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. The main hall has a secure telephone entrance system.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.



An immaculate and substantial detached with five bedrooms set in popular spot

An immaculate and very substantial detached family home in Albion Street, Wall Heath, lies within this extremely sought-after area.

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**WALL HEATH
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Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, a ground floor WC, a lounge, a separate formal dining room, a very large, beautifully appointed dining kitchen, separate utility room, five

good-sized bedrooms (master with luxury en-suite shower room), well-appointed house bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing.

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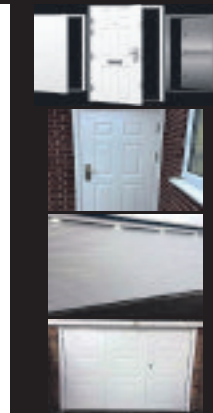
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- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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01902 724905.

MISSING TOM CAT Named Spice from Blakenhall for 6 weeks, if found contact 01922 510153.

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2 Leisure Time

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07932 023151.



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£7,500.
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what's on

Antique Fairs

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Kivner Comm Centre, Sun 2nd Sept and 7th Oct. EST 1979 Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 16th Sept Refreshments. 0121 550 4381

holidays

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3 Home & Services

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Collections bought.
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Telephone 01902 676540.
OLD POCKET and wrist watches wanted, all conditions, also watch menders clearances, parts, etc. 01746 765278. 07773 345218.

WANTED

OLD VIOLIN WANTED
must have a 14" main body.

needs to be over 100 years old. any condition considered.

Telephone 07922 618451

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES wanted plus any 48K or 128K+2 Spectrum computers wanted or any old crash or Sinclair magazines 01902 892918.
WANTED RAILWAY slides, negatives and photos.
Contact 07783 921040.

Items For Sale

CORRUGATED GALVANISED
Sheets. New. £8 can deliver. Also rooflights and box profile. David Broxton on 07834 489558.



JOTUL WOOD BURNER
It's Classic elegant looks will suit any location.
£470 ono.
01902 745207.

Kitchens & Bathrooms

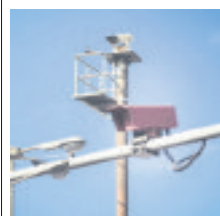
CREAM Corner bath with surround, shell pattern, with taps / shower head, vgc. L150cm x W110cm. £130 ono. 01902 338571. Must collect.

t.v. / home entertainment

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Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

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www.portwayfencing.co.uk

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It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

KIND HOMES WANTED
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Rosie, 8 years young Jack Russell.
Megan, Collie cross, lovely gentle overweight girl.
Charlie, 1 year old cream / white Collie.
Meg, 3 year old cream / white Collie.
Tiny, 4 year old Jack Russell cross.
Luna, 8 year old Husky cross, big, gentle, soft, cream colour.
Fred, lovely 3 year old black and white Border Collie.
Several young Chihuahua boys.
01588 676106.

6 Property

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

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NOTICE TO READERS

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FORD FIESTA

2002, 1.3, MoT, central locking, sun roof, CD, PAS, alloys.

Good runner

£375 ono.

07396 328117

BARGAIN

FORD KA

57 reg. New MoT.

Low miles. Power Steering.

Electric windows. Economical. CD.

Drives. Looks great.

£795.

07365 796477.

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA JAZZ S

1339cc 4dr hatchback

Silver

52 reg

26,050 miles, MoT

Good condition

£950.

01902 842380

BARGAIN

MAZDA 2

1.4 Capella

57 reg, new MoT

91k, 5dr in light blue, alloys

FSH, cam belt done

£1,150.

07815 580299.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

NISSAN MICRA

1.2.

04 reg.

MoT'd.

Good condition.

£975 ono.

07864 842076.



PEUGEOT 307

2007 reg, MOT March 2019,
66K miles, drives very well.

£750

07901 350547



RENAULT CLIO

2008, 1.2 petrol, 5dr, silver,
64,000 miles, 12 months MoT,
service history, new clutch,
very good condition.

Cat D hence **£1,095 ono.**

01746 862982/07932 468704.



VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.6

5-dr, 2002, 52 plate, blue,
98,000 miles, MOT August
2019, PAS, air con, CD
player, very well maintained,
immaculate condition.

£595

07939 498854.

Cars Over £1500

AUDI A4 AVANT ESTATE SE TDi 140

2008, FSH, cam belt changed,
very clean, MoT'd till March
2019, tow bar, Sat Nav, black
leather trim, 130,000 miles.

Good condition.

£3,250.

07988 084458.



FORD FIESTA ZETEC 5DR

2010. 83,000 miles.

FSH

One owner from new,
superb condition.

£3,495.

01903 744023.



MAZDA MX5

1.8, 07 reg, 59,000 miles,
full Mazda service history, 11
months MoT, metallic blue,
excellent condition, drives
great, any inspection.

£3,500 ovno.

07855 370328.



MERCEDES E320 CDI AVANTGARDE

2003, 99k miles, Met Grey, abs,
EW, EM, air con, long service
history, auto, CL, CC, power
steering, diesel, sunroof, alloys,
CD player, leather interior.

£2,850.

01384 401209 / 07739 837137

EXCELLENT CONDITION

SEAT ALTEA 1.6 REFERENCE SPORT

2008, black, lady owner, 60,000
miles, 7 months MoT

£2,700 ono.

07815 424136.



TOYOTA RAV 4

2002 5dr manual petrol
Silver, side steps, alloy wheels
New battery, clutch, starter
motor, full exhaust and rear
brake pads. Full MoT.

Excellent condition inside and
out, very reluctant sale.

£1,800 ono.

01384 256719.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

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58 reg.

Power Steering.
Electric windows.

Central locking. CD Player.

Spare Key.

£2,000.

01384 350369.

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Oldbury Area.

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Very low mileage.

Y reg.

Very recently MOT'd.

£700 or very near offer

01902 332077.

GOOD RUNNER

VESPA GTS 250

2006.

12 months MoT.

Service history.

Leovinci Exhaust.

Good condition.

£1,250 ono.

07973 819392.

spares & accessories

Tow Bars & Trailers

TRAILER to carry scooter or motor
bike, complete with trailer board,
lights, spare wheel and ramp **£130.**
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9

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Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

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Hogg on **01902 319694**
or email **marie.hogg@**
expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/
contact number for confirmation
of receipt)

DAVID ANTHONY BERRY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons
having a claim against or an interest in the Estate
of the aforementioned deceased, late of 14
Hawthorne Road Hayley Green Halesowen West
Midlands B63 4LN, who died on 14/03/2018, are
required to send particulars thereof in writing to the
undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/11/2018,
after which date the Estate will be distributed
having regard only to claims and interests of which
they have had notice.

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29 Woodbourne Road Edgbaston
Birmingham B17 8BY

733805

10

Personals

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nights.

Starting

Thursday, September 13

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Email

dj.rowley@btinternet.com

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

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take appropriate professional
advice before entering into any
obligations.

7

Jobs

Employment Wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time
work.

Own van / tools.
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or **07527 360303.**

8

Motoring

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FINAL WHISTLE

New powerplants for the E-Class and CLS ranges

By Sharon Walters

Mercedes-Benz has introduced a new selection of petrol and diesel engines for its entire range of E-Class and CLS models.

Starting with the E-Class, the E 450 4Matic is now available in the E-Class Coupé and Cabriolet line-ups, with prices starting at £50,900 and £55,395 respectively.

Replacing the E 400 4Matic, the E 450 4Matic uses an inline six-cylinder petrol engine with Mercedes-Benz's EQ Boost technology.

It produces 367bhp and 500Nm of torque, with an extra 22bhp and 250Nm available via the EQ Boost system, which uses a 48-volt inline starter-generator to enhance performance and refinement while also reducing fuel consumption.

The E 450 4Matic delivers a combined fuel economy of up to 32.1mpg on the Coupé – or up to 31.7mpg on the Cabriolet – and emits 202g/km of CO2.

This powertrain allows for a 0-60mph time of 5.4 seconds on the Coupé and 5.6 seconds on the Cabriolet, while both models have an electronically limited top speed of 155mph.

Replaced

Also on the E-Class Coupé and Cabriolet, the E 350 d 4Matic has been replaced by the E 400 d 4Matic. This 3.0-litre inline diesel engine produces 340bhp and 700Nm of torque.

Equipped with this powertrain, the Coupé achieves 0-60mph in 4.9 seconds, while the Cabriolet takes five seconds. Once again, both models have a top speed of 155mph.

Starting at £64,445, the new E 400 d 4Matic All-Terrain has been introduced to replace its E 350 d equivalent. This version of the 3.0-litre inline six-cylinder engine produces 340bhp and 700Nm of torque. The 0-60mph sprint is achieved in 5.2 seconds, with a top speed of 155mph.

The E 400 d 4Matic All-Terrain offers a high level of specification as standard, such as Air Body Control air suspension, Multibeam LED Intelligent Light System, panoramic sunroof, towbar, 360-degree camera, Air Balance package, Energising Comfort package and wireless smartphone charging.

Meanwhile, on the CLS 350 Coupé, an all-new four-cylinder petrol engine has been introduced. It produces 299bhp plus 400Nm of torque and has a belt-driven variant of the EQ Boost system, offering a further 14bhp and 150Nm.

This powertrain is capable of up to 39.8mpg and emits 162g/km of CO2. Equipped with it, the CLS can deal with 0-60mph in 5.8 seconds and hit a top speed of 155mph.

The models are available to order now and deliveries are set to begin in October.



The CLS Coupé now gets an all-new four-cylinder petrol engine



E-Class Coupé and Cabriolet models is now available with the E 450 4Matic engine

New Renault crossover 'secret' name

Renault's next crossover will be named Arkana, the firm revealed with a new teaser image.

Set to be shown in full at the upcoming Moscow International Motor Show, the Arkana will join the highly competitive C-segment, which features cars such as the Mazda CX-5, Skoda Karoq and Kia Sportage.

The model's name is derived from the Latin word 'arcanum', which means secret. However, it's no secret at all that this is a big car for Renault in the Russian market.

The Arkana will be built in Moscow, and Russia will be the first country to market the crossover.

The French firm hasn't explicitly stated if and when the Arkana will be arriving in the UK, but has confirmed it will be introduced to 'global markets' following a 2019 release in Russia.

Should the Arkana join the UK Renault line-up, it will sit alongside the Captur and Kadjar in the French firm's SUV offerings – likely positioned between the two. The



firm already offers a crossover in Russia – the Kaptur – which shares a lot with the similarly named car available across the rest of Europe. Little else is known about the C-segment

machine, with Renault keeping its design under wraps for now – although a preview image released in July suggests that it will use the firm's familiar corporate look. There has been no word on technical

specifications or what to expect in terms of pricing for the Renault Arkana, but more information should follow the car's reveal this week at the Moscow International Motor Show.



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Citroën's upmarket plans for C4 Cactus

By Carmel Stewart

Some C4 Cactus customers were a little prickly when it came to the bubble wrap Airbump panels which adorned the sides of the original model. Personally, I thought they were distinctive and hinted at a fun drive but what do I know?

For the second-generation compact hatchback, Citroën bowed to pressure and reduced those tough, air filled polyurethane bump strips to slender strips. In fact, only 10 per cent of all the original exterior body components have been retained for this model.

Experience

A new look front end now boasts LED daytime running lights, sharper headlights and additional chrome highlighting together with body coloured bumper side scoops, all ensuring a clear delineation between the old and the new.

The driving experience has also changed thanks to the addition of progressive hydraulic cushion suspension which adjusts in stages to match the road surface, advanced comfort seats with high density foam and noticeably larger squabs (ie the bit you sit on).

Better cabin soundproofing has been achieved through the addition of an acoustic windscreen, thicker glass, new door seals and improved sound insulation round the engine housing.

But not everything has changed – thank goodness. The new Cactus has retained the funny little rear quarter window opening-ratchet release and push – just enough for a breath of fresh air.



All apps and info are on a touchscreen

Technology on the new C4 Cactus includes active safety brake and blind spot monitoring – an increasingly useful aid in these days of undisciplined motorway driving – park assist and a reversing camera, plus hill start assist, grip control and fog lights with a cornering function. All are evidence of the market this new car is aimed at.

And watch out for the 'take a break' flashing cup and saucer which appears on the dash when you have been on the road for more than two hours.

The all-important connectivity – in this case via MirrorLink – is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. All apps and info are contained on a seven-inch touch screen. DAB radio and Bluetooth are standard on all models.

For those who like to make their mark on a car, there are 31 exterior combinations – nine body colours combined with four body packs



The latest C4 Cactus has a new look front end, LED daytime running lights, sharper headlights and additional chrome highlighting

plus four different designs and materials for the interior.

Needless to say, the engine range has also been revised. A new PureTech 130 petrol with six-speed manual transmission, has been added to the list to run alongside the PureTech 110 with manual or automatic gearing and the Blue HDi 130. Truth to tell, the 1.5litre diesel was hard work and far less agile than the

1.2litre 130 petrol which hummed along very nicely.

On the road, the hydraulic suspension, while not able to iron out every rut and bump, certainly makes a difference and, combined with the optional wider, advanced comfort seats, adds up to a smooth driving experience which borders on fun – despite those smaller airbumps.

Three different trims are on offer – Feel, Feel Edition and Flair. Prices start at £17,265 for the Feel Edition – a special introductory launch version powered exclusively by the PureTech 82 with five-speed manual gearing. Feel starts at £17,965 and the top of the range Flair at £19,865. So, not cheap but a price point which clearly demonstrates Citroën's upmarket intentions with this model.



Halesowen Autos

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Friendly and family-run with quality cars and great service

Commercial feature

Local motor industry expert joins Halesowen Motor House, a family-run businesses

Friendly and family-run Halesowen Motor House is leaps ahead when it comes to exceptional service, quality cars, customer loyalty and customer satisfaction.

Halesowen Motor House is part of a family-run business that began in the West Midlands in 1953. Run by managing director Stuart Grieveson, Halesowen Motor House is one of the largest and most friendly car dealerships locally. Stuart's four children, Alexandra, Daniella, Stephen and Oliver all work in the business. It truly is family owned and run.

It's important to the family to keep a friendly atmosphere for staff and customers alike. Happy staff means happy customers, so Halesowen Motor House has many loyal and repeat customers in the local area. This is because Halesowen Motor House's valued customers enjoy exceptional levels of honesty, transparency and customer care across all departments, from new and used car sales through to parts and car servicing.

Due to growth at the company, a new member of the team has been to join the family run business on Dudley Road, Halesowen. Julie Butlin joins the aftersales team, having previously worked for Vauxhall for some 26 years.

Julie has great knowledge of the motor industry so she will add expertise and quality to the customer experience in the servicing



There's always a warm and professional welcome

department at Halesowen Motor House. "I am looking forward to meeting the customers, new and existing. I'm excited about working with new car brands like Ford and Suzuki plus all makes and models."

Julie is a local, family woman herself; she has two daughters and two grandchildren. This year, she celebrates her 26th wedding anniversary. Julie says since starting at Halesowen Motor House two months ago, she is "delighted by the friendly and fair nature of the company." Julie also said "I'm impressed with the knowledge

of the staff here, the fully trained technicians and the high standards of the latest equipment for servicing cars and vans."

General manager, Andy Cooper said: "Having recently undergone a showroom refurbishment, it's an exciting time at Halesowen Motor House. We are a well-established site, with the most modern facilities and employ good people. With Julie here now, she'll bring new skills and fresh insight into the service department. Our local customers will enjoy her courteous, professional and upbeat approach."



Ready for action: Walsall Ladies' open age senior side face the camera



Mayor Marco Longhi and ex-Saddler Mark Gillespie open the 3G facility at Walsall West E-Act Academy last year



Walsall's under-14s line up after a donation from the M6 Toll



A 2005 presentation to the club for £8,360 from the Football Foundation

Joy for Ladies as they kick off 20th season

WALSALL LADIES Football Club have cause for celebration even before a ball is kicked this season after hitting another milestone.

The club, affiliated to the League One Saddlers, are about to embark on their 20th campaign as they continue to go from strength to strength under the guidance of the man who has been there from day one, chairman Brian Simpson.

The forthcoming campaign will see Walsall run a senior side in the Staffs County League and with teams at under-9, 11, 13, 15 and 16 age groups.

They also boast some impressive facilities on which to display their ball skills at West Walsall E-Act Academy, in Primley Avenue. The club and school have formed a winning partnership with a 3G pitch installed last year which is now used by all of the Walsall sides and the envy of their rivals.

The school has been the Ladies' home for more than a decade and the club played a leading part in bringing about the new facility. It was made possible thanks to a grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, delivered by the Football Foundation.

Development

The then Saddlers goalkeeper Mark Gillespie helped to cut the ribbon on the new facility, along with Walsall Mayor Marco Longhi in August last year.

Founded in 2000, the Football Foundation funds the development of new and refurbished grassroots sports facilities.

Since it was launched, it has awarded around 15,000 grants worth more than £580m towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of more than £800m.

Academy headteacher Qamar Riaz said on its unveiling: "We are delighted to have received the investment, from the Football Foundation which has enabled the new 3G pitch to be available to our local community."

Meanwhile Simpson is delighted to see the Ladies club thriving, with a turnout of more than 250 people at the end of the season awards night providing further evidence they are on the up.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"I keep saying I am going to step down and then something happens and I carry on. But I enjoy it and we are a football-mad family."

"Our first season was in 1999 and we are really proud of what we have achieved," said Simpson. "I can't think of another girls and ladies set-up around here that has been going so long."

"Over the years, firstly as Great Wyrley and now as Walsall, we have seen in excess of 1,000 girls and women play football for us."

"We have had success with some of our girls gaining scholarships to play football in America and a couple progressing through the ranks and going on to play for England at various age groups."

"It's difficult at times because we have Wolves, Albion, Villa and Birmingham around us who all have academies."

"We have lost a couple more girls to academies this year and while we are obviously pleased to see them progressing, it can be a bit soul destroying at times when players you have had from the age of six move on at 14 or 15. But we keep going and keep working hard."

Indeed, there has been plenty of hard work from Simpson and his family over the years. He got involved with girls football when his daughter Donna played at Kidderminster, but the family links don't end there.

"I got involved when Donna was at Kidderminster and ended up running the side," he said. "Then when this club got up and running I took on the chairman role and my wife Christine was secretary."

"She did that until she passed away five years ago and Donna is secretary now."

"My son-in-law Neil is vice-chairman and my

granddaughters are also involved. Alisha and Amelia play for the under-15s and under-9s, while the other one, Esme, will be starting to play soon."

"I keep saying I am going to step down and then something happens and I carry on. But I enjoy it and we are a football-mad family."

Creating a 'family feel' is key for Simpson and he believes it has been a key ingredient in the club's success.

"We had over 250 people at our end of season presentation night – it was a really good evening," he said. "There is a real family atmosphere here and a real bond between the officials players and parents."

"You have to get a good balance at a club. You can't take things too seriously. The girls have got to enjoy their football and the parents have to enjoy being part of the club as well," said Simpson.

More youngsters will be coming through the door this season after Simpson unveiled plans to start a 'Wildcats' section for girls aged between four and six.

Prospering

At the other end of the age scale, Holly Gayler is in charge of the senior side along with Samantha Simpkins. "We want to run sessions for four to six-year-olds and they will run alongside our training sessions on Tuesday nights at the E-Act Academy," said Simpson.

"We are looking to the future and want to have sides running all the way through to the senior side."

"Girls football seems to be prospering at the young age groups although it's a lot more difficult to recruit from the age of 15 upwards."

"The senior side was reformed last year and finished just below mid-table."

"Holly has stepped in to form a management team with Sam, who wants to concentrate more on playing."

The club, which was afforded Charter Standard status in 2002, are looking for players for the forthcoming season and also anyone interested in sponsoring them.

Anyone interested in joining the senior set up should contact Samantha Simpkins on 07782 830359.

For information on the club's other age group sides or sponsorship, contact Brian Simpson on 07817 785690 or email walsallladiesfc@gmail.com

Denny lines up for latest title challenge

ROWLEY Regis fighter Tyler Denny takes on Reece Cartwright for the English Middleweight Title at Walsall Town Hall next month.

The Midlands Area champion, 27, a product of Old Hill Boxing Club in Cradley Heath, headlines BCB Promotions' latest Town Hall show on September 22 as he bids for national honours.

Co-challenger Reece Cartwright, from Leeds, has racked up 22 bouts at pro at the age of 24, with 21 wins and 12 TKOs to his credit.

The under-card features home favourite James Beech Jr, an undefeated super bantamweight prospect, 21 from Bloxwich. Another Walsall pugilist, Levi Ferguson, also features, while Ryan 'Stewart' Davies, a former kick-boxer from Tividale, will be looking to rebound from his first pro defeat. Flyweight 'Pocket Rocket' Dani Hodges, from Burntwood, former national amateur champion Connah Walker, of Wolverhampton, and ex-kickboxer Troi 'the Hawk' Coleman completes the line-up.

For tickets, call the town hall box office on 0845 111 2900.

Noah earns call-up for Laser Run squad

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager has been selected to be part of the Laser Run squad at the 2018 School Games. The national multi-sport event for the UK's most talented school-age athletes takes place at Loughborough University from August 30 to September 2.

Noah Sandland, aged 13, a student at the Ounsdale High School and is a member of the Black Country Triathletes, and will compete for the u-14's England Midlands squad in the Laser Run. He has previously competed in both the West Midlands and National Biathlon Championships.

More than 1,400 athletes will compete across 11 sports at the School Games. Laser Run is one of five new disciplines, along with canoeing and rowing, netball and triathlon.

Sandland will experience the excitement of competing at the highest level, living in a dedicated Athletes' Village on the Loughborough University campus, taking part in an School Games ceremony and performing in front of huge crowds of spectators.

Lions roar into action for inaugural contest

BIRMINGHAM takes centre stage for the first ever club-led international Women's American Football tournament this weekend.

After coming home from Finland with the inaugural Diamond Bowl trophy, Britain's quintuple champions Birmingham Lions, now hope to cement their position as an international force to be reckoned with.

From tomorrow (Friday), until Sunday, Lions welcome the New-York Sharks and Helsinki Wolverines to UK shores for the first ever Pro-Cloud Transatlantic Trophy. Matches will be held at the University of Birmingham, with New York Sharks and Helsinki Wolverines kicking off the tournament at 7.30pm tomorrow.

Defeated by the Lions in 2017, the Finnish outfit will be looking to even the score come 4pm on Saturday when the teams meet again. The hosts will then close proceedings against the Sharks, kick off 2pm on Sunday.

Fifty per cent of the tournament profits will go towards providing Critical Care Ambulances with the latest life-saving technology.



DK progress with cup win over rivals

DK 20 Halesowen 12

FOR this preliminary round of rugby's North Midlands Cup, the evening began with a minute's silence for former DK President Graham Robbins, who passed away during the close season.

The tie with near neighbours Old Halesowenians allowed the game to be played under the Heathbrook lights and avoided the Bank Holiday.

DK gained the initiative early due to dazzling run by Tommy Walker on the DK left from near the halfway line. His progress was halted but the ball was recycled and offloaded to Matt Perks who strode to the line. Sam Vaughan opened his account with the conversion.

Moments later DK added a second try with Perks crossing again, but the conversion was missed. Vaughan kicked a penalty to give DK a 15-0 advantage which they held at the interval.

In the opening moments of the second half Old Hales engineered an overlap on their right and scored in the Wanderers corner, no conversion.

DK steadied the ship and were back in business when Matt Squire broke a tackle and headed for the line. He was felled just in front of the posts, but the support was there. Ben Brown played a one-two with Matt Grive and drove for the line. Vaughan's conversion attempt was missed.

Matt Grove and drove for the line scoring in the corner Sam Vaughan failed from wide out, 20-5 to DK. Old Hales put in a late charge and the referee awarded a penalty try.

Visitors waded in to claim a point at The Grove

Halesowen Town 1 Biggleswade Tn 1
HALESOWEN warmed up for this week's No 9 Derby with a point against Biggleswade.

Yeltz had to settle for a point on Saturday after their first-half lead was pegged back by the unbeaten visitors.

The first half was a tight affair although Matthew Ball fired a loose ball over the Yeltz bar from the edge of the area after 24 minutes and tireless home striker James Roberts worked clear down the centre after 26 minutes but dragged his low shot inches wide.

Halesowen took a 1-0 advantage in the 37th minute when Roberts' shot from a right-wing throw-in was blocked, but Ahmed Ali turned home the rebound with the help of a deflection.

The Waders deservedly equalised in the 66th minute when Ball found space down the left to cross for Jonny McNamara to be blocked in front of goal but Peter Clark was able to slam the rebound into the roof of the net.

Biggleswade almost snatched a 90th minute winner when Brett Donnelly hit the post and Clark put the rebound wide.

From Black Country to the Big Apple



Star wrestlers Tyler Bate, left, and Trent Seven

FROM the Black Country to the Big Apple, Wolverhampton's Trent Seven and Dudley's Tyler Bate are leading the World Wrestling Entertainment's UK brand NXT – giving it a global audience and putting the Black Country on the map.

The duo, known as Moustache Mountain, are former NXT tag team champions and have now taken the fight State-side.

The NXT TakeOver: Brooklyn event saw the pair fail to reclaim their tag team title from The Undisputed Era team of Kyle O'Reilly and Roderick Strong in front of almost 15,000 fans. Trent and Tyler won the title in London in June before a rematch saw former champs O'Reilly and Strong take it back.

The Black Country duo failed to reclaim the title in New York in the third meeting between the rival pairs.

Trent said: "We're glad to be flying the flag for the area." Tyler added: "I want to become the most famous person from Dudley. I already have more followers than Lenny Henry on Twitter."

YELTZ CLING ON IN NO.9 DERBY

HALESOWEN TOWN profited from parking the bus for much of this No.9 Derby – despite skipper Dan Bragoli briefly letting off the handbrake.

The Glassboys found themselves stifled until Bragoli's weak pass back was pounced upon by Greg Mills with the ball breaking for Luke Benbow to emphatically curl around exposed keeper Dan Platt just past the hour.

But Yeltz hit straight back with Lee Hughes finding Ahmed Ali, who nudged low across the six-yard box for James Roberts to scramble in at the far post four minutes later.

As legs tired, the odd sniff of an opening drifted into the air but defences remained on top and the spoils were shared.

The Glassboys laboured early on with Rob Thompson-Brown working the first credible opening for Benbow to drive over from 20 yards after the hitman played his part in a carefully-crafted build-up.

Header

Halesowen's best moments came from aerial threats and Ali might have done better with a headernine minutes before the interval.

Thompson-Brown was inches from lighting the blue touch paper four minutes after the interval, lashing fractionally wide a bouncing ball with a shot that caught Platt unaware.

Stourbridge looked far more lively from there with Aaron Hayden flying in to thump over a header under pressure from a fierce Mills centre on the hour.

The deadlock was broken a minute later followed by the swift response and the leveller seemed to take the wind out of Stour sails until added time.

Mills crossed for Aaron Forde to have a down-ward header pawed away before substitute Brad Birch's 10-yard rocket got a nick to take it wide.



Halesowen Town's Ivor Lawton battles Stourbridge's Aaron Forde in Tuesday's No.9 derby

Heathens' home leg put back 24 hours

CRADLEY'S home leg of the National Trophy Final with Mildenhall has been put back by 24 hours.

The Motor Market Heathens will now race at Wolverhampton on Tuesday, September 11, to avoid being stripped of half their team.

The original date of September 10 had ruled out Kyle Bick-

ley and Taylor Hampshire with the club already without Drew Kemp.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "This is great news and it underlines what can be done when clubs work together for the good of the sport. It's a cup final so both clubs want it to be a spectacle for the fans and now it has every chance of being that."

"We know what a powerhouse team Mildenhall have but we will be giving it our very best to win the competition at our first attempt."

"We would like a handy lead, any lead at all, from the home leg so our fans can travel to Mildenhall for the return on the Sunday with hope of an aggregate win."

Frustrating weekend for Halesowen

A HANDFUL of bonus points from their remaining three matches will be sufficient for Kidderminster to regain their Premier Division spot at the first attempt but the other promotion place is, still, up for grabs with 19 points separating second in the table Bridgnorth and fifth-placed Halesowen

Bank Holiday Monday saw Wes Griffiths (71) and Alexei Kervezee (58) take Halesowen to 247 for six against Brockhampton. While Worcestershire's Daryl Mitchell (65) was at the wicket, a Brockhampton win remained possible but when he was out at 117, the remaining batsmen were unable to fathom Harry Kitchen (5 for 21) or Masharraf Shazad (3 for 38).

On Saturday the abandoned game between Hales and Shifnal was significant, halting Shifnal's progress towards promotion and hindering Halesowen's chances of maintaining their own challenge.

Connor Dudley hit 77 in a Shifnal total of 187 for nine, in 48 overs, with Halesowen's Charlie Hartley taking 4 for 56 but the visitors' reply was, finally, curtailed after 15 overs with the score on 62 for one, after a number of interruptions.

Frustrated skipper Kervezee said: "We completely outplayed Brockhampton on Monday and would have done likewise at Shifnal on Saturday but for some interesting rule interpretations by the officials which closed the game down before we had chance to win it."

Stourbridge eye on division three title

STOURBRIDGE remain on course for the Division Three title but Rugby seem determined to push them all the way to the end. The two sides meet at Rugby on September 8, where a win for Stourbridge would, surely, settle the debate in favour of the side from Amblecote.

On Monday, Stourbridge struggled, early on at Old Elizabethans, slipping to 125-6 before 104 from Nathan Crudeli and 65 from Dominic O'Reilly lifted them to 250-9. Alex Bastable took 5-50 for OEs, but impressive spells from Hasnain Nawaz (5-15) and Jitesh Jivan-Patel (3-18) ended their resistance on 92.

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